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'Jordan-Israel talks no threat to PLO'

AMMAN (AFP) — Israeli-Jordanian talks on trade and banking in the occupied territories will not change relations between Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a Jordanian spokesman said Wednesday. Marwan Musader, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the talks, said they "will not affect coordination" between Jordan and the PLO. He told a press conference that "a tripartite meeting amongst the three sides is eventually inevitable." He said the two sides would discuss the issue of Jordanian banks in the West Bank and Gaza as well as trade between Amman and the autonomous areas at talks in a hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. "Jordan is keen on promoting trade with the West Bank through expanding the list of goods eligible to go into the territories' market," added Dr. Musader.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

King receives injured soldier

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received at Amman Civil Airport Lieutenant Met'eh Dabobi of the Special Forces serving with international peacekeeping forces in Croatia. Lt. Met'eh was accompanied by Prince Abdullah, commander of the Special Forces. Lt. Dabobi was injured by a landmine when he was caught in a mine field in the former Yugoslav republic. He was hospitalised in Zagreb. He was contacted over the phone on June 15 by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan only one day after he was admitted to the American hospital in the Croatian capital. He was also called by Prince Abdullah at hospital. Lt. Dabobi was a commander of a Special Forces unit in Croatia.

Jordan marks 42nd anniversary of King's accession to The Throne

King entrusts Crown Prince with forming Royal Commission to serve Jordan's new era

Multi-objective group should seek creation of economic and investment atmosphere, HM says

Work should cover 'private and public sectors, based on clear foundations that guarantee rights of the deserving'

Jordanians remember King's untiring efforts to serve them

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that Jordan was entering a new phase of its modern history, and the transition called for a Royal Commission to be headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to prepare the Kingdom for a future based on social justice, democracy, efficiency and achievement.

In a letter addressed to the Crown Prince, entrusting him with forming and heading the commission, the King said members of the new group should be drawn from a history of persons of integrity and work towards further enhancing the nation's standing based on a clear foundation of justice, integrity and human dignity.

In the letter, King Hussein asked Prince Hassan to ensure that those "who serve with honesty and integrity and those who work tirelessly" be in the panel.

"There should be absolutely no room for leniency with those individuals or entities who abuse public funds and there should certainly be no



room for the misuse of public office for personal gain," he said.

King Hussein reflected on Jordan's coming era, pointing out what should be done to pave the way for Jordan to enter the modern age, "according to sound and scientific bases."

Following is the text of the King's message to Prince Hassan:

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate Prayers and Peace on the Faithful Arab Hashemite Prophet

dearest, most beloved and trusted brother and Crown Prince, El Hassan,

It is indeed a pleasure to write to you as you join your dear Jordanian brethren in tirelessly paving the way for

our beloved Jordan to enter a new phase, in order to consolidate the noble goals and solid constitutional foundations established by our late Grandfather, founder of modern Jordan, King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein. Those foundations were intended to create strong constitutional pillars to support a Jordan built on the principles of justice, freedom, integrity and human dignity. In this regard I would like to reiterate my utmost confidence in you, and my admiration for your relentless efforts in seeking glory and prosperity for our beloved country. Your active participation with Jordanians from all walks of life in facing the challenge of constructing the right social, political, intellectual and economic fabric of our lives, based on knowledge and awareness, has brought the prospects of progress closer to our reach. This will certainly give us every right to become players on the wider human stage as

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Thursday celebrates the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Hashemite Throne.

On Aug. 11, 1952, the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan, pursuing the march of the Great Arab Revolt which his late great grandfather Sharif Hussein Ben Ali had launched against foreign domination.

In celebrating the anniversary Jordanians recall the King's untiring efforts in developing Jordan into a model democratic state and his sincere and dedicated efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, defend Arab causes

and liberate the Arab will and resolution from foreign hegemony.

The King's work to move Jordan back into the foreground of regional and international momentum towards the 21st century has been recognised.

The fruits of that labour will be reaped as the people of the region feel the benefits of a secure environment with hope for economic advancement.

"The King has managed to return Jordan to the political map," Parliament Speaker Taher Masri told Reuters news agency on the eve of the

anniversary.

"But for this momentum to continue, many requirements have to be met," said Mr. Masri. "The fruits of peace have to make themselves felt quickly on Jordanian society in all aspects."

Nearly 70% of the members of the Lower House support the Washington Declaration signed by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25.

Signs are that the coming peace will bring more investment, tourism and trade, developments that are a prerequisite to a stable, prospering society.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday meets with leaders of Christian communities in Jordan (Petra photo)

Crown Prince expects agreements on key issues with Israel in early 1995

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday that major agreements on the common agenda for the peace talks between Jordan and Israel could be reached in 1995.

Describing 1994 as a threshold for peace in the region, Prince Hassan said: "I believe that major agreements in terms of the agenda can be in evidence... by early 1995."

The agreements will include shared maps and surveys that would detail the borders between the two countries and "Jordanian and Israeli sovereignty on land," Prince Hassan said during a meeting with representatives of the U.S.-based United Jewish Appeal (UJA) and the Jewish community in Boston.

The Crown Prince told over 100 leading Jewish businessmen that the Jordanian-Israeli achievements since the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25 had exceeded "expectations in terms of breaking down the psychological barriers" between the Jordanians and the Israelis.

Citing the opening ceremonies of the Aqaba-Eilat crossing point on Monday, Prince Hassan said "outpouring of goodwill... was evident" in the human encounter between Jordanian and Israeli war veterans and the families of soldiers killed in the Arab-Israeli wars.

Prince Hassan stressed that peacemaking is not for the elite but for people who should feel its benefits in

terms of improved living standards. He said peace should help eliminate the disparity in the living conditions of the people of the area.

Calling for a major vision for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley from Lake Tiberias in the north to the Red Sea in the south, Prince Hassan proposed that an economic summit for regional development which will be held in Morocco in September consider "a phased out implementation" of a multi-billion development plan being worked out by Jordanian and Israeli negotiators.

The economy of the region "can be rehabilitated on the basis of pluralism and interdependence," Prince Hassan told the Jewish visitors, who arrived here Tuesday. He said efforts should be directed towards evolving an economic model which is "acceptable and liveable."

Pointing to the lack of cooperation among the countries of the Middle East, Prince Hassan called for a joint lobby committee to make the world understand that "this region is a region only in name. It is featureless."

"This is a region which has been a wilderness in terms of institution-building," Prince Hassan said.

Responding to a question on the Syrian-Israeli track of the negotiation, Prince Hassan said he hoped progress would be attained on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace talks in order to support the building of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"The idea of a comprehensive peace process that leaves

Omani leader hails Washington Declaration

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday received a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman expressing his congratulations and those of the people and government of Oman on the Washington Declaration.

The Sultan voiced his support for "steps taken in the light of this declaration towards the achievement of a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

"Your achievements of enjoying custody and care for the holy places in Jerusalem stands out as a clear proof of your keenness on clinging hard to Arab rights," said Sultan Qaboos in his message.

The Omani foreign ministry also issued a similar statement, welcoming the peace accord signed by Israel and Jordan as a positive step forward, the first public declaration of support for the agreement by a Gulf Arab state.

"The minister of state for foreign affairs, Yousef Ben Alawi Bin Abdullah, confirmed that Oman supported the agreement because it is a step forward to a comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue," the official



Oman News Agency said.

It said the minister at the same time urged Israel to work for a breakthrough for peace with Syria and Lebanon. "Without it, peace in the Middle East will be set back and the region will be in a state of instability," the agency said.

It did not quote him directly but said he expressed satisfaction with the recent talks between Syria and the United States and urged Arab countries to show solidarity.

Safeguarding holy shrines is honour for Jordan — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday the task of safeguarding the holy shrines in Jerusalem was a source of honour for the Hashemites and for the Kingdom of Jordan.

"We do not compete with anyone for Jerusalem and we do not seek to impose our will or rule over anyone, but we act out of pure inspiration to perform our duty," the King said in an address at a meeting with representatives of Christian communities in the Kingdom.

"We will remain a united family on a common march and we will fulfill our duty under all circumstances acting as brothers and sisters to serve faith and the nation," King Hussein said at the meeting, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Following are major excerpts of the King's address:

"Dear brothers, I welcome you in this home, the home of all Jordanians of various origins and members of the big Jordanian family."

"I deeply appreciate your efforts as representatives of

your communities and for your review of Jordan's history beginning with the Omani pact and until the present time.

"I would like to reaffirm that all of us will remain a united family and our march will progress as we all fulfill our duty under all circumstances. We hope that this march will set a good example for all others in our region as we are determined to remain and live like brothers and sisters within the united big family of Jordan."

"I pledge to continue to provide protection and care for the holy shrines as this is an honour for us the Hashemites and for this country and its people who have offered so many sacrifices throughout history."

"We will compete with no one over Jerusalem and we will not impose ourselves on anyone, but we will continue to work, inspired by our

clean conscience with the will of God in order to serve national interests of all people including all the faithful descendants of Abraham.

"We want to see the holy places serving as a symbol in meaning and content and a meeting together in fearing and worshipping God."

"We have worked and will continue to strive to regain Arab rights in Jerusalem for its people and its owners."

"I am honoured as much as are all the Hashemites, to be one of you, working for you and with you to safeguard the trust and perform our duty as best as we can and for all time."

"I implore God to help us to arrive at our objectives, which harbour good for all and aim at ensuring the rights of all people."

"This is a sacred unity which will remain safe from

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Sabri Farah & Family

On the Occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
its felicitations and
most cordial wishes

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)

Christopher sees progress in Mideast peace process

REFLECTING upon his visit to the Middle East this week, Secretary of State Warren Christopher briefed the press on board his flight from Israel to Shannon on Aug. 9. Mr. Christopher cited progress toward three U.S. objectives, including:

— Discussions with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt on ways to improve the delivery of financial assistance to the Palestinians;

— Meetings with King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on efforts to move forward the implementation of the Washington Declaration signed by the two leaders a fortnight ago; and

— Discussions with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on accelerating the Syrian negotiating track.

The following is a transcript of the secretary's on-the-record briefing.

Mr. Christopher: First, I wanted to work with the Egyptians and see if we can find ways and means to improve the delivery of the funds to the Palestinians and

hence enhance the construction and reconstruction of Gaza and Jericho. One of the outcomes of the meeting, of course, was that Arafat was there in Egypt. I had an opportunity to talk with him directly in the presence of Mubarak and it was quite a useful three-way meeting. One of the products of that will be signature today by Palestinians of the OPEC agreement with the United States, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation agreement, which will encourage several of our companies and firms that have been waiting that signature before launching their own projects in Gaza and possibly Jericho.

A second outcome is that Arafat committed himself to me to meet with the World Bank people to try to work through problems with the World Bank; to make his way through procedures and red tape of the World Bank. They're meeting today to try to streamline and improve the procedures.

Finally, coming out of the trip and our extensive conversations both in Alexandria as well as conversations that

have taken place on the telephone, we have some new ideas for streamlining the process to enable the funds to be delivered on a more timely basis to the Palestinians. The background will give you more details on the subject. Let me say that we continue to feel a responsibility to ensure that Arafat and the Palestinians have a full opportunity to achieve progress in building and rebuilding in the Gaza and Jericho areas. As I told the Chairman, his success is very important to the United States and the other nations who have been involved in all of this process. Despite the frustrations, we want to help in every way that we can and that's been our attitude. I must say I believe that the same attitude the Israelis and other parties involved have toward the matter.

The second objective I had for the trip was to try to move forward the implementation of the Washington Declaration. Clearly in those terms it was a remarkable day yesterday. The interaction between the Jordanians and Israelis that I am sure all of you witnessed is an extraordinary

thing to see. There is a rapport that was really palpable. You could see it in the stands as we waited for and had the statements there on the border. You saw Jordanian and Israeli military men, who probably had never met each other, talking in a very animated way, discussing how they might work together in the future.

I think I have never seen King Hussein or the Prime Minister in a better or more relaxed mood than they were in the two days that I was out there. They both had sort of a sense of relief that they had done the right thing; the sense that they had made a historically important move. It's given them a new sense of confidence and reassurance to move ahead. I was really struck with a comment that King Hussein made at the beginning. I think, of the press conference when he said "I am more at ease with myself than at anytime since I became King."

In my prepared remarks yesterday, I spoke of a long-term on the part of both the Jordanians and the Israelis for peace and for rapprochement between them and I

think that captures the mood that I found in both of them. They see great prospects ahead. Certainly they will both move conservatively and cautiously, but nevertheless, there is a tremendous new opening which was reflected in what they said and even more so in the body language yesterday that we could visualize on the stage and that I saw up close as we took that sunset trip on the King's yacht followed by and welcomed by the Israeli boats on the Elat Side and the Jordanian on the Aqaba side.

One of the other things that came out of the meetings was the schedule for the trilateral meetings. As I said yesterday, the focus was primarily on the bilateral aspect of it, but there was considerable discussion of how the trilateral meetings would fit into the overall picture; the importance of the trilateral meetings from the standpoint of regional development.

Finally, the third objective of the trip was to deepen the discussion on the Syrian track. I felt that my last trip had removed some of the major psychological barriers. There was less testing between the parties and down-to-earth discussions. I find that in this conversation was a very conscientious searching on the part of both of

them as to the needs of the other party. They were not utterly self-absorbed, but they were rather thinking about what the needs of the other party were and what might be done to achieve them.

As I've said before, the various aspects are very much intertwined; interrelated. You could see that borne out in Prime Minister Rabin's comment yesterday when he said Syria wants peace, and the issue now is timing and the price.

That indicated he saw how interrelated each of these matters are. So it will be difficult for us to portray progress on any one of many issues. It may not in the long run be significant unless there is progress on other issues. I know this is a time of some frustration for reporters. I don't feel I can report incremental progress on specific issues. But I can say in an overall sense that I feel the discussions are very meaningful to both of the parties. There is a good deal for them to think about and chew on as we leave the region. As I said, the reason why we are not going back to Damascus is that I felt the one long meeting that I had with Assad accomplished what could be accomplished at the present time. There was no need for a second meeting. I thought it might take two meetings to accomplish what we were able to achieve in the meetings that we had.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis seek to curb pork-laced meat

DUBBAI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has moved to prevent canned meat containing pork entering the country after it was discovered in neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE). Saudi Arabia has sent a delegation from its commerce ministry to the UAE to discuss upgrading examination of foodstuffs before they are allowed into the country. "The visit follows discovery of canned beef containing pork. The delegation is discussing stronger control of food imports in the UAE as a large part of its exports go to Saudi Arabia," a UAE official said. According to the official UAE news agency WAM, the Saudi delegation met with food control officials in Dubai Tuesday. It said the two sides agreed on boosting cooperation and exchanging information on the quality of imported food to upgrade examination techniques. They also called for accelerated plans to link laboratories in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), especially in the field of food control, it added. The UAE this year banned several kinds of canned meat imported from the Netherlands, the Philippines and other countries after tests showed they contained pork, which is prohibited by Islam.

Two Pakistanis held in Kuwait for drug smuggling

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Two Pakistanis were arrested at Kuwait airport carrying two kilograms of heroin with a street value of \$80,000, the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said. The two passengers, who had flown back from Pakistan to Kuwait where they lived, had hidden the drugs in their clothes, airport customs chiefs told KUNA. It was one of the biggest drug hauls in Kuwait for several months. KUNA did not say when the arrests took place. The Kuwaiti parliament is soon to discuss whether to introduce the death penalty for drug traffickers. Capital punishment for drug smuggling already exists in two other Gulf states — Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dozens of traffickers have been executed in Saudi Arabia since the penalty was introduced in 1987, but no executions have been reported in the UAE.

Swiss drop case against Turkish envoy

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has dropped criminal proceedings against the former Turkish ambassador and embassy staff in connection with the shooting death of a Kurdish demonstrator, a magistrate said on Tuesday. Magistrate Peter Kunz told Reuters the precondition for a trial or further legal proceedings did not exist as the Turkish government had declined to cooperate and lift the diplomatic immunity of the six people under investigation. "The preconditions for a trial just don't exist," Mr. Kunz said in a telephone interview. The Swiss justice ministry regretted the outcome. "It is clearly with deep regret that we realise there is very little prospect of success for further proceedings," said a spokeswoman for the justice ministry. Magistrates had investigated former Turkish Ambassador Toperi Kaya and five other embassy staff on charges of murder, unintentional killing and endangerment of life. On June 24, 1993, a 29-year-old Kurdish demonstrator, Semsettin Kurt, was shot dead and nine others were injured in connection with a demonstration outside the Turkish embassy in the Swiss capital.

Bardot calls for veterinary clinic in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — Brigitte Bardot, former French film star turned animal campaigner, urged Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in an open letter Tuesday to open an animal clinic in Beirut. "I am of course aware of the dramatic events which have painfully scarred Lebanon in recent years, and see my request only as hope for a better humanity," Ms. Bardot wrote. She said a dispensary would help animal protection campaigns in Beirut and allow those who could not afford vets fees to seek cheaper treatment for their pets. "I am asking for a little hope and generosity from you to use your influence so your country can defend and protect animals," Ms. Bardot told Mr. Hrawi.

Beirut again calls for death sentence on Geagea

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government on Tuesday called for the death sentence to be imposed on former Christian party chief Samir Geagea on a third charge, judicial officials said. The latest appeal for a capital sentence relates to charges that Dr. Geagea was involved in the 1989 murder of a Christian leader, Elias Zayek. Dr. Geagea, who headed the recently disbanded Lebanese Forces (LF), stands accused in two other violent incidents for which the state has sought the death sentence: An explosion in a church north of Beirut in February that killed 11 people, and the assassination in October 1990 of another Christian leader, Danny Chamoun, and members of his family. Dr. Geagea denied involvement in the killing of Zayek during his arraignment July 13, dismissing the charge as "fabricated." His trial is set to begin late next month. Dr. Geagea has been held since April 21 at the Defence Ministry near here. His lawyer has asked that he be transferred to a prison under the jurisdiction of judicial authorities and has boycotted preliminary hearings as a sign of protest. The Lebanese Forces militia, which became a political party in 1991 when paramilitary formations were dismantled, was dissolved last March after being accused of inciting confessional strife.

Turkish footballer held in Macedonia

ANKARA (R) — Macedonian police have seized Turkey's ex-soccer star Tanju Colak, sentenced to jail at home for car smuggling, and are holding him in detention, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. A ministry official said Turkey had demanded his extradition from Macedonian capital Skopje, where he fled to avoid a jail sentence at home. "The formalities have been completed," he said. "We are waiting for him to be returned."

Iran's new tank appears modelled on U.S. armour

MOSCOW, Cyprus (AP) — A new tank Iran says it has built appears to be modelled on U.S. armour sold to Tehran before the 1979 revolution rather than on Russia's T-72 as originally thought, Western experts say.

Jane's Defence Weekly published what it said were the first photographs of the Iranian Zulfikar — named after the sword of a legendary Shiite Muslim warrior — in its latest edition which reaches newsstands Wednesday.

An advance copy of the article was made available to the AP.

These show a tank with what appears to be an air-cooled engine and carried a 105-mm main gun, unlike most former Soviet tanks.

U.S. M48 and M60 tanks sold to Iran by Washington

before the 1979 Islamic revolution have air-cooled V-12 diesel power plants and pack 105-mm guns.

Iran took delivery of more than 800 U.S. tanks under the late Shah, deposited in 1979. But many were lost during the 1980-88 war with Iraq and chronic spare shortages have left many more non-operational.

The Zulfikar, unveiled in Tehran April 14, also does not have the distinctive low, rounded turret of the T-72, which packs a 125-mm smooth-bore gun and is powered by a liquid-cooled engine, an earlier-model Soviet armour.

"The main armament appears to be a 105-mm L7/M68 rifled gun, fitted to U.S.-built M48A5 and M60A1 tanks in service with Iran for many years," the authoritative weekly re-

ported.

"Zulfikar does not resemble the T-72 or any other Russian main battle tank and the analysis of its design is setting a tricky puzzle for Western intelligence agencies."

It is not clear whether Iran plans to mass produce the Zulfikar. But Western weapons systems experts contacted by the Associated Press said Tehran is not believed to have the engineering capabilities of starting a Zulfikar production line at this time.

"It's probable they've built one or two prototypes and trotted them out for propaganda purposes. There's certainly no evidence so far that it has gone, or is about to go, into full production, which is quite difficult," said Christopher Foss, editor of

Jane's Armour and Artillery Yearbook.

However, Iran, which is currently engaged in a major rearmament programme, has been striving for the last decade to build an arms industry to achieve a degree of self-sufficiency and counter international arms embargoes. One of its main requirements now is new armour.

Iran can currently produce mortars, light arms, unguided battlefield rockets and is reputed to be working on developing the means to produce missiles and light armoured vehicles. Tehran claims it can now produce spare parts for its U.S.-built F14 and F-5 combat jets.

In the past, Iran has publicly displayed a light training aircraft, a helicopter and other equipment it claimed were built domestically.

Court cuts sentence in libel-against-mufti case

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian appeal court on Tuesday softened sentences imposed on three men convicted of libelling the grand mufti, Egypt's highest religious authority, court sources said.

The three — Shaaban Ismail of Al Azhar University in Cairo, Ali Al Salou of Qatari University and Ali Farouk Ali Hassan, editor-in-chief of the defunct fundamentalist newspaper Al-Nour — had their six-month jail sentences cut to six months suspended after they apologised to the mufti.

The case is one of a few in which the government has used the courts to protect the religious establishment from attacks by the fundamentalist right.

In articles in Al-Nour the

three men criticised fatwas (legal rulings) from the mufti on financial dealings and on the importation of alcohol, saying they were at odds with Islam.

They were first sentenced in April but appealed.

"Political business"

The U.S. does "political business" with Islamic fundamentalists in the Middle East, the Egyptian newspaper Al-Akhar charged Tuesday.

"The unusual American relationship with the symbols of terrorism and extremism under the cover of democracy and human rights are no more than political business," the semi-official paper said in a front-page editorial.

Past and present fight over Alexandria

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA — Throughout Alexandria, archaeologists who want to save the ancient city — or at least record it — are in a race with builders determined to erect a new one.

At stake is the hazy history of a Mediterranean metropolis built on the dreams of Alexander the Great. To win, the scholarly excavators must stay one step ahead of the bulldozers.

This is salvage archaeology: Getting to what's buried as quickly as possible, recording what's there, then turning the site over to the developers.

It is the same story wherever a past and present collide: London, Rome, Athens, Beirut, Jerusalem, even in the youthful United States, road-building crews strike ancient Indian burial mounds or civil war remains.

In Alexandria, countless treasures sleep beneath the floor: million people of a city that has lived more than 2,300 years.

Under a blinding sun, French archaeologist Jean-Yves Empereur hurries from excavation to excavation — five at the moment — where his colleagues are trying to find everything in time.

A Roman bath here, bits of mummy wrapping there, parts of an ancient house, the torso of a statue, a broken amphora filled with 1,200 Roman coins.

"Perhaps this was once a garden," Mr. Empereur said. "Someone buried the coins here for safekeeping and never made it back."

Many centuries later, the garden became the site of a theatre, which in its turn has been sacrificed to progress.

Alexandria probably holds tens of thousands of such tales, but Mr. Empereur does not have the leisure of daydreaming. Archaeologists estimate they have no more than a decade left to dig.

"Everything is a piece of the puzzle is Alexandria," said Mr. Empereur, on loan from France's national centre of scientific research to help the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation. "We could lose

everything." Examining Alexandria's 2,300 years of history is a little like cutting into a pan of lasagna. The earth holds layer after layer of time.

For centuries, Alexandria's buildings had no foundations. New buildings rose on top of old, leaving a lot of history intact. Also, Alexander's architects designed the city in grids, like Washington, D.C. excavators have an idea where buildings should have been.

"Every time you lower a shovel in Alexandria, great things come up," Bob Bianchi, a Greco-Roman historian from the United States, told the Associated Press.

Alexandria's story begins in 332 B.C. As Mr. Bianchi describes it, "Alexander came down from Syria along Alexandria, he looked out and said, 'what a harbour'."

Alexander, a Macedonian prince with great affection for things Greek, ordered a city built right there, to be named for him and become the capital of his empire. He died nine years later in Babylon

without seeing it. Ancient Alexandria, as large as a good-sized modern city, was designed for beauty, with palaces, temples, gardens, fountains and the renowned Alexandria library.

In its heyday, "the Pearl of the Mediterranean" had the world's finest port. In beauty and culture, it rivalled Rome. Alexandria's because so evocative that at least 34 communities around the world adopted it as their own, 12 of them in the United States.

The city flourished under many rulers, including Cleopatra and Mark Antony. But after they committed suicide in 30 B.C., disaster struck.

Riots, battles, invasions, earthquakes, fires and fluctuating sea levels took their toll on Alexander's city. Lost within its ever-changing precincts were the library, the tombs of Alexander, Cleopatra and Mark Antony; colonnaded temples, the world's largest gymnasium, mosaic-covered baths, and docks for small sailboats that

took families on Sunday excursions.

By the Middle Ages even the Pharos lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was gone.

Mr. Bianchi said two modern events had done the most to interfere with the preservation of Alexandria's past:

— A British bombardment in July 1882 that destroyed major portions of the city.

— Construction of a water-front highway a few decades ago that turned innumerable relics to powder, then dumped them into the sea.

Modern architecture has become the latest threat. High-rise buildings require deep foundations. At many sites, piles are driven almost 15 metres down, mutilating everything in their path. The archaeologists try to get there first.

Mohammad Awad, an architect, is a founding member of the Alexandria Preservation Trust, whose 300 members scour the city for signs of antiquities on build-

ing sites. If necessary, they file lawsuits to stop construction. That happened in 1993 when an extraordinary mosaic and other valuable antiquities were discovered at the site intended for a new Alexandria library.

"We have now a unique opportunity to study ancient Alexandria before all the city has been redeveloped," Mr. Awad said. "Below ground is the story of a city that's completely lost. So many parts are missing."

Government officials and construction companies often denounce requests that building projects be delayed for archaeology. By law, construction must give way to antiquities, but antiquities officials often lack the will to use that power.

In June, construction workers driving huge piles for a new university building hit a Roman water system, piercing an arch. Had the Roman walls not been six metres thick, the entire structure would have collapsed.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Terastar
18:30 News in French
18:45
19:00 Monde Fantastique Des Animations
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Heart of Courage
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
17:52 (Sunset) Dhuha
12:41 Dhur
16:21 'Asr
19:31 Maghreb
20:56 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Smithfield, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 822785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Sotte Church Tel. 661757
Terastar Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

773331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625276.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649322.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and less calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/29
Aqaba 25/37
Dhahran 18/34
Jordan Valley 25/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30 Aqaba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Basim Qaddumi 648633
Dr. Yousef Al Faghi 756988
Dr. Yousef Nair 751144
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 620115
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Sunshine pharmacy 637662
Nairoun pharmacy 629672
Najib pharmacy 847632

BERKE:

Dr. Mohammed Al Khalil 273099
Al Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Harzallah 988075
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 671701
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 615900
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 010250
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010250
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813815/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64428146

Aklich Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2
Ibn Al-Nafis Maternity 642362
Mafes, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 6441744
Shamsan Hospital 669131
Al-Mustafa Hospital 845845
Al-Mustafa Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 6652737
Al-Ahl, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajra 7770103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army Medical 87611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224069
Amal Hospital 674153

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983722

RUH SHAH HOSPITAL

Al-Hussein Modern Hospital (09)989090
BIBES:
Prince Basmal Hospital (02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ru Al-Nafsa Hospital (02)94780

AQABA:

Prince Haya Hospital (09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:05 New Delhi (RJ)
10:05 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
17:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:35 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:45 Athens (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
21:30 Rome (RJ)
21:30 Madrid (RJ)
06:30 Laraca (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:10 Sharjah (AH)
13:30 Abu Dhabi (GP)
13:35 Munich (OE)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
20:15 Sana (TY)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
21:15 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Dubai (EK)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple 650/450
Banana 680
Banana (Mukhammar) 620
Cabbage 120/70
Carrot 270/200
Cauliflower 200/120
Cucumbers (large) 180/100
Cucumbers (small) 370/220
Eggplant 180/100
Fennel 450/350
Garlic 900/700
Grapes 280/200
Lemon 480/300
Marrow (large) 200/100
Marrow (small) 420/190
Mushrooms 140/70
Okra 1100/800
Orange 500/300
Onion (dry) 270/200
Onion (wet) 700/300
Peach 180/100
Sweet Melon 150/100
Pepper (hot) 250/180
Pepper (sweet) 280/180
Potato 420/280
Pumpkin 900/600
Tomato 1

Jordanian vocalists take to the Fuheis stage

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In cooperation with the Jordanian Musicians Association, the Fuheis Festival Tuesday night introduced four Jordanian singers — two juniors and two seniors.

Amer Mohammad, 23, is one of the young singers who made his debut before the Jordanian public.

"I have loved music since childhood," Mr. Mohammad told the Jordan Times. "I began singing in 1988, and I also compose my own songs. When I was a child, I participated in many festivals with the school singing group."

Planning to become professional singer, Mr. Mohammad recently recorded a song in Baghdad. He believed that the quick modern song is the right way to the audience's hearts.

Rami Shafiq, 20, followed the steps of Amer Mohammad. From his performances at Fuheis it appeared that the new trend was spreading among today's young singers.

(Mohammad Abu Gharib, 33, appeared on stage, he said, "to amuse people and arouse them to dance."

Actually, he succeeded to amuse the sleepy audience. Most of them were seen dancing, while he sang. Mr. Gharib is inspired by Egyptian popular singer Ahmad Adawiya, whose songs and style of movements on stage make you want to throw away the chair you are sitting on.

Mr. Gharib, who began singing in 1984, believes that talent comes before education.

"If I have enough talent to present a kind of art that amuses people, and if I have unacceptable personality on stage, so why should I educate myself? Art is just like football. Maradona did not study how to shoot the ball,



Siham Safadi

but he is the world star," said Mr. Gharib.

"The problem of any artist is to recognise what the audience wants. I know that whoever comes to the theatre does not want to listen to music or songs, but rather wants to dance," added Mr. Gharib.

Adieu Mr. Art! Siham Safadi, a renowned Jordanian singer, drew in her audience with her folkloric songs and her popular voice.

American singer Russell, of the Crossing Borders group which performed at the Jerash Festival last month, was quite amused. He turned on his pocket recorder, and began clapping to Ms. Safadi's tunes.

The vocalist began her career in 1972. "My talent helped me improve my style, my voice level, and helped me choose the type that suits me," Ms. Safadi told the Jordan Times. The singer participated in many festivals in Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Romania where she was greatly encouraged.

As vice president of the Jordanian Musicians Association, Mrs. Safadi is the first woman to occupy this post. Mohammad Hazza' of the Ministry of Education described Ms. Safadi as one of the generation of this difficult age. "Yes, it is a difficult age, because we have to fight in order to feel that we exist," he said.

British Airways to resume Amman flights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Airways will resume its Amman flights on Dec. 8, ending an almost five-year hiatus prompted by the recession that hit international aviation in the late 80s, it was announced Wednesday.

The decision by one of the leading European airlines was seen as a direct reflection of the changing environment in the Middle East as a result of the Arab-Israeli peace process and expectations that peace would bring in waves of tourists to the region.

The announcement was made by Robert Ayling, group managing director of

British Airways, in London. Mr. Ayling also announced that British Airways was also resuming its Beirut flights on the same date after an 11-year suspension prompted by the civil war in Lebanon.

In the three years since the civil war ended, Lebanon's economy has improved, and "Jordan too is seeing the economic benefits of peace," Mr. Ayling said. "We are glad now to be able to implement our long-standing plans to return to Beirut and Amman."

Tony Christodola, public relations manager of British Airways, told the Jordan Times that the airline intends to operate two weekly flights to Amman

with Boeing 767 aircraft in the initial stage and gradually raising flights to four a week.

The configuration of the plane will be 10 first class, and 40 "Club World" and 141 "World Traveller" class seats, he said.

"Jordan is the place to focus on now," Mr. Christodola said in a telephone interview from Beirut. "Jordan is spending a tremendous amount of money to develop tourism to Petra, Jerash, Aqaba etc. Jordan deserves all the attention one could give in this context."

"British Airways will bring you more tourists and businessmen to Jordan," said Mr. Christodola. The airline suspended its

Amman flights at the height of an international depression of the aviation industry. It used to operate two flights a week to Jordan when it closed the operations, down from four flights a week in the late 80s.

Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Kingdom's national carrier, stepped in to fill in the vacuum left by the British airline's departure.

Most international airlines suspended their flights to Amman at the height of the Gulf crisis. The first to resume full operation was Air France—followed by KLM, the Dutch Airlines, which now operates daily flights between Amman and Amsterdam. Industry sources said

Swissair was planning to resume its Amman flight by April/May 1995.

Lufthansa, the German airline, has not taken any final decision on resuming its flights to Jordan, the sources said.

"Most international airlines are now looking at Jordan with new interest," said the local manager of a European airline. "The first events in the peace process have left many wishing that they had made advance preparations and studied the logistics of coming back to Amman or opening new routes."

"Cooperation in tourism among Israel, Jordan and Egypt holds out tremendous possibilities," he said.

Princess Sumaya lays cornerstone of college department complex



AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Al Hassan Wednesday laid the foundation stone of a permanent complex to house the Electronic Engineering Department at Princess Sumaya University College for Technology (PSUCT) on the grounds of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Accompanied by Minister of Higher Education Rabbat Al Saoud and RSS President Hani Mulki, the Princess also inaugurated the students activities building.

RSS officials said the new Electronic Engineering Department will include modern laboratories, lecture halls, and staff offices, and the already completed students activities building comprises sports and recreational areas in addition to other facilities.

Princess Sumaya later attended the graduation ceremony of the 16th and last class of students from the computer college.

Students in the two-year computer training course will be able to pursue higher studies and obtain a bachelors degree in computer sciences following an extra two-year training course, said an RSS official.

He said the electronic engineering programme is a five-year programme leading to the bachelors degree.

The Princess distributed diplomas to the graduates during the ceremony, which was attended by members of the college board of trustees.

So far the college has graduated 669 students including 10 from non-Jordanian Arab countries.

College Dean Mohammad Qarique delivered an address thanking Princess Sumaya for patronising the ceremony, noting that the college has signed contracts with two U.S. universities to provide expertise and training to the students in the new Computer Sciences Department.

The Higher Council for Education earlier this year accredited the specialisation of computer science at Princess Sumaya University College for Technology.

The PSUCT, established in 1991, enrolled its first group of students in computer science in 1991. In 1993, PSUCT expanded its educational activities and started to teach electronic engineering. The college grants the bachelors degree in both specialisations.

Tourism minister to meet Israeli counterpart soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan is expected to meet with his Israeli counterpart Uzi Barak within the coming two weeks to explore avenues of cooperation in the tourism industry, informed sources have said.

The sources told the Jordan Times, Tuesday evening that the meeting would take place at the new Aqaba-Eilat crossing point which was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday.

Mr. Barak initiated a phone call to Dr. Adwan Tuesday to discuss cooperation in the tourism sector and invite him to visit Israel, the sources said. They said Dr. Adwan told

his Israeli counterpart that it is "premature" for him to visit Israel at this point, noting that Jordanian and Israeli committees are discussing tourism issues within the framework of the negotiations.

The Aqaba-Eilat crossing point, which would serve third country nationals, was agreed upon in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25. Under the Declaration, another crossing point will be opened in a location in the north that has not yet been chosen.

The opening of the crossing point was followed by a Jordanian-Israeli summit in Aqaba.

The opening of the road link between Jordan and Israel is expected to lead to a boost in the number of



Mohammad Adwan

tourists visiting the two countries as visitors to both will be able to cross to the borders after only a four-kilometre drive.

Visas for the tourists could be issued at the border, but Israelis who hold dual nationalities need to obtain prior clearance.

Labour ministry, nurses' union to cooperate on employment issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour is prepared to cooperate with the Jordanian Nurses' Union (JNU) regarding related employment practices of the private and public sectors.

Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi said Wednesday.

Speaking during a visit to the JNU office with the union's board members and Board Chairperson Nazeeh Bour, Mr. Ghazawi said the Ministry of Labour was intent on denying work permits to foreign nurses without prior approval from the JNU and before giving priority to Jordanian nurses.

The minister requested a list of names of the foreign female nurses employed by them in organising specialised training courses for Jordanian nurses so that they

could qualify for posts currently occupied by foreign nurses in intensive care and infant care units.

According to Mr. Bzour, the JNU has set up a committee to respond to complaints and grievances raised by nurses in the private and public sectors.

Last April, Mr. Bzour announced that the JNU had taken action in court to ensure better pay for government-employed nurses.

He said that the action was necessary after two futile years of attempts to acquire better pay for the nurses, adding that the Labour Law stipulates that nurses are required to work six and not eight hours per day as they are doing now with no overtime pay.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Health minister meets with WHO official

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref R'zaieh Wednesday met with Omar Saleem, the regional director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and discussed issues related to community medicine programmes which are currently being executed with assistance from WHO and in cooperation with Jordanian universities. The two sides also discussed prospects of dispatching Jordanian physicians to specialise in community medicine at the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) and the University of Jordan under a programme sponsored by WHO.

Police officers head for Mozambique, Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — Another group of police officers from the Public Security Department (PSD) left Amman Wednesday to join U.N. peace keeping forces in Mozambique and Croatia. The 20-member group was seen off by PSD Director Abdul Rahman Udwan.

American students visit university

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of American students from Brigham Young University Wednesday visited the University of Jordan and were briefed on educational programmes there. The visitors were also acquainted with students' extracurricular activities and they visited the university's museums.

International youth camp to start

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 115 young Jordanians working and living in 16 Arab and foreign countries will gather at a youth camp in Ajloun Saturday to start a week-long programme of voluntary and orientation activities. The event, which will be opened under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, entails seminars, field trips to projects, voluntary work for the local community and meetings with officials as well as visits to archaeological sites in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FUHEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Lebanese vocalist Najwa Karam at the main theatre on Thursday at 21:00.
- ★ Children play "Children's Garden" at Bait Al Fuheis Theatre on Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
- ★ Concert by Iraqi vocalist Mahmoud Anwar at the main theatre on Thursday at 21:00.
- ★ Children's play "Laila and the Wolf" to be followed by folkloric dances at Bait Al Fuheis Theatre on Friday at 11:00 a.m.
- ★ Seminar in Arabic entitled "Jordanian Pioneering Experiences" with the participation of Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad and Mr. Najib Al Rashdan at the festival site on Thursday at 18:30.
- ★ Poetry recital by Ibrahim Nassereddin, Jerjes Samawi, Zakhar Abu Shaib, Taher Riyad, and Youssef Abdul Aziz at the site festival on Thursday at 19:30.
- ★ Seminar in Arabic entitled "Drama in Jordan" with the participation of Mu'nis Razzaz, Nazih Abu Nidal, and Ramadan Al Kawashdeh on Friday at 18:30.
- ★ Poetry recital by Marwan Al Saifi, Ramah Nazzari, and Nabila Al Khatib on Friday at 19:45.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- ★ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Ammar, Darya Zetfiza, Norma Hattar, and Hiss Tu'meh.
- ★ Exhibition on the city of Salt.

- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by Inad Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmood, and Khaldoun Ghazalbeh.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts.
- ★ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).

PLAY

- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Man Who Ate The Goose" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday and Friday at 20:00.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert of Armenian pop songs by Karagi Sarkissian at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- ★ "Oud" performance by musician Jalal Al Wazidi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture on Thursday at 20:00 (Tel. 695291).

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) (Tel. 726677).
- ★ Exhibition of ceramic works by Samar Tarazi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water paints by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakht at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

Britain donates £13,500 to Save the Children Federation

Donation to help women's credit programme in poverty sectors

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Peter Hinchcliff, the British ambassador in Amman, Wednesday presented a cheque for £13,500 to Mark Eldon-Edington in support of the Save the Children Federation in Jordan (SCF).

The donation will be used for a state-of-the-art credit programme for poor women based on group-lending principles, according to Mr. Eldon-Edington, field office director of SCF.

"We recognise that women spend more time trying to earn money to help their husbands, and spend less time with their children," said Mr. Eldon-Edington.

He said the major problem that poor women face in this area is lack of credit and loans.

"Poor women don't have access to loans in Jordan and they cannot get guarantees from banks and institutions."

"We hope that our programme will help build up their credit," he said. According to Mr. Eldon-Edington, the project, which started in late June is a pilot project which grants 30 loans to women in groups of 10, adding that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can work closely with the govern-

ment to implement poverty reduction programmes.

The SCF initial project site of Mahatta, he said, was chosen in consultation with the Ministry of Social Development.

"We hope that in the near future we expand our project and cooperate with the NGOs and strengthen their capacity so that they can implement the programmes themselves," Mr. Eldon-Edington told the Jordan Times.

Rana Saifi, the development officer at the British embassy, said this initial grant from the embassy will be distributed for women to invest in small projects with a capacity to expand in the future.

"Financially poor women will get the chance to put their hands together to work on establishing their own economic status through this poverty-reduction programme," Ms. Saifi said.

She told the Jordan Times that the key issue in the project is supporting NGO programmes and in poverty reduction, such as promoting the social status of women and finding solutions to their financial problems of unemployment.

"Women will get the chance to choose their own activities and will be able to pay up their loans from the



British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliff Edington in support of the federation's programme to help women's credit programme to improve the economic conditions of the Children Federation's Mark Eldon-Edington poor women

money they make," she said.

Many women who enrolled in the project are entitled to other future loans if they succeed in closing their debt, Ms. Saifi said.

Some of the activities that the poor women adopted included producing cushions, handbags, wallets, cleaning materials, cigarettes, vegetables, baby pads and watermelon and

producing small groceries at home and selling them.

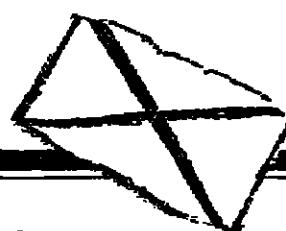
She added that most women were encouraged by the idea, and "some of them told me that they plan to better their lives through increasing their income by competing with other sources."

SCF which has been established in 1985, aims at

making lasting, positive changes in the lives of disadvantaged children, their families and the communities in which they live, through sustainable community development programmes.

The poverty reduction programme also includes early childhood development, basic education and preventive health.

دولت اسلامی



Chechen assembly backs state of war, general mobilisation call

MOSCOW (AFP) — Delegates to an assembly in Chechnya asked President Dzhokhar Dudayev Wednesday to declare a state of war in the republic and order a general mobilisation to counter "Russian aggression," ITAR-TASS said.

The appeal was backed by delegates from nine of Chechnya's 17 regions, all of which were represented at a special "Congress of Chechen People" which opened in the Chechen capital, Grozny, the report said. Mr. Dudayev said earlier he would order a general mobilisation of Chechen's male population if the congress gave the go-ahead, Interfax News Agency reported.

ITAR-TASS said the delegates from nine regions of the republic called on Mr. Dudayev to order "immediately a state of war throughout the territory of the republic."

They also called for the "mobilisation of the male population and to organise all necessary means for repelling the aggression by the Russian army."

Tension mounted Wednesday in the mountainous republic, which Mr. Dudayev

unilaterally declared independent from Russia in 1991, a move recognised by no one.

The opposition movement, which Mr. Dudayev accuses of being orchestrated by Moscow, told Interfax that it had elected Ali Alavdinov, a former businessman, to head the "provisional council," or opposition government.

The council was based in the northwest Chechen town of Nadterechny and had organised patrols with armoured vehicles in the area to guarantee security for council members, Interfax said.

Russian Khasbulatov, the former Russian parliament speaker who led last year's armed revolt in Moscow, announced in a newspaper interview Wednesday he had returned to his native Chechnya to broker a peace settlement.

According to the official daily Izvestia, Mr. Khasbulatov was given a hero's welcome, including a 200-car motorcade, when he returned to his hometown Monday.

He met with opposition members in Moscow Monday and told Izvestia that he would "urge the republic's democratic forces to trust"

the opposition.

Cossack authorities in the Stavropol region meanwhile denied reports that Cossack forces were massing on the Russian side of the border with Chechnya.

Interfax separately quoted a Russian counter-intelligence service source as saying that Moscow was not considering sending troops into Chechnya, despite recent Russian declarations that the republic must be brought back under Moscow's control.

A spokesman for the Russian government denied that Mr. Khasbulatov had any official mandate to negotiate a political settlement in the breakaway Caucasus republic and described his presence there as "essentially private."

"You would have to ask Khasbulatov himself what he is doing there," the spokeswoman said.

Chechen officials have also denied plans to take up Mr. Khasbulatov's offer of mediation and the former parliament speaker made clear he supported the opposition's demands for Mr. Dudayev to quit.

"It is necessary to win Dudayev's voluntary resignation, guaranteeing him secur-

ity in the future," Mr. Khasbulatov stated. He added that no deployment of Russian troops in the republic would be needed to resolve the crisis.

Despite questions on his intentions and usefulness, Mr. Khasbulatov's remarks to Izvestia nonetheless marked his return to the Russian political fray just six months after he was freed from prison and vowed to stay out of politics.

Mr. Khasbulatov, an ally-turned-enemy of President Boris Yeltsin, was also known as a strong political opponent of Mr. Dudayev and was accused by the Chechen leader several times in recent years of organising armed provocations in the republic.

The former parliament speaker however remains popular in Chechnya.

On Tuesday Russia put troops in areas near the Chechen border on a higher state of alert and earlier this week cut off all air links with the republic.

Chechnya, one of 89 "subjects" that make up the Russian Federation, unilaterally declared its independence in 1991.

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SEATTLE (R) — A domestic

crashed and burst into flames

on a South Korean island

Wednesday when it tried to

land in rainstorms but all on

board escaped from the plane,

an airline spokesman said.

The Korean Air Lines Airbus

A300-600R was unbalanced

by sudden strong gusts

sweeping Cheju Island as it

was touching down and skid-

ded off the west runway, hit

an airport fence and caught

fire, he said.

The plane stopped within

100 metres of the sea.

All 160 passengers and

crew managed to leave by the

escape chutes just after the

aircraft crashed, he said.

"Cabin crew could only

open one emergency exit be-

cause of flames and the tilting

position of the plane but it

took only a few minutes for

everyone to leave," one offi-

cial said, quoting a crew

member.

"Eight people were treated

in hospital for minor injuries

but no one was admitted to

hospital," he said.

He said seven of those tre-

ated were passengers and one

of the co-pilot. Earlier reports

said most of those hurt were

crew.

"Everyone was over-

whelmed with panic and

without the crewmembers' cool

and orderly guidance the

situation would have been

messy and escape difficult,"

passenger Bae Ke-Dong told

the Yonhap Domestic News

Agency.

Television pictures showed

the aircraft in flames in a field

at the edge of Cheju Airport,

completely destroyed apart

from its cockpit and pale blue

tail bearing the airline's logo.

"I heard several bangs in

succession only minutes after

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Nagoya, Japan.

The KAL plane was deli-

vered in February 1991, Air-

bus said.

The KAL spokesman

blamed the disaster on strong

winds caused by typhoon

Doug approaching the resort

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said the plane overshoot its

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"The plane failed to secure

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The exact cause of the

crash was being investi-

gated.

South Korea's Meteorolo-

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"The plane was shaking

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land," passenger Kim Kyong-

Shik told Yonhap.

"Shortly after the landing

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ing off the runway and then I

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Television pictures showed

fire trucks showering foam

onto the plane to douse the

flames.

Initial reports had said

there were 150 people aboard

but the airline subsequently

revised this to 152 passengers

and eight crew.

Eleven Japanese passen-

gers on board the Airbus,

which was on a domestic

route from Seoul, escaped

unhurt, the KAL spokesman

said. The remaining passen-

gers were South Korean, but

the pilot was Canadian, he

added.

S. Korean aircraft crashes; all 160 escape

SEUL (R) — A domestic aircraft carrying 160 people crashed and burst into flames on a South Korean island Wednesday when it tried to land in rainstorms but all on board escaped from the plane, an airline spokesman said.

The Korean Air Lines Airbus A300-600R was unbalanced by sudden strong gusts sweeping Cheju Island as it was touching down and skidded off the west runway, hit an airport fence and caught fire, he said.

The plane stopped within 100 metres of the sea. All 160 passengers and crew managed to leave by the escape chutes just after the aircraft crashed, he said.

"Cabin crew could only open one emergency exit because of flames and the tilting position of the plane but it took only a few minutes for everyone to leave," one official said, quoting a crew member.

"Eight people were treated in hospital for minor injuries but no one was admitted to

hospital," he said.

He said seven of those treated were passengers and one of the co-pilot. Earlier reports said most of those hurt were crew.

"Everyone was overwhelmed with panic and without the crewmembers' cool and orderly guidance the situation would have been messy and escape difficult," passenger Bae Ke-Dong told the Yonhap Domestic News Agency.

Television pictures showed the aircraft in flames in a field at the edge of Cheju Airport, completely destroyed apart from its cockpit and pale blue tail bearing the airline's logo.

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Television pictures showed several small explosions and a large fireball rising from the wreckage.

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Eleven Japanese passengers on board the Airbus, which was on a domestic route from Seoul, escaped unhurt, the KAL spokesman said. The remaining passengers were South Korean, but the pilot was Canadian, he added.

U.N. threatens Bosnian rivals with air strikes

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations said Wednesday it had threatened both Bosnian government and rebel Serb forces with NATO air strikes unless they stopped fighting within Sarajevo's weapons-exclusion zone.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, separatist Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, facing military defeat in the northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bihać after a single tank shell killed his military commander, vowed to stay with his people in their fight for autonomy.

Serbs and Muslims used the banned heavy weapons in battles for the Visoko-Breza region within the northern part of the 20-kilometres zone around Sarajevo over the weekend, prompting a stern warning from Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the U.N. commander in Bosnia.

The United Nations estimated 400 artillery shells and mortar bombs had hit within and just outside the exclusion zone in the past 24 hours.

"There has been heavy shelling... the firing coming from both sides," U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes told Reuters.

"That led to a warning shot

from General Rose that NATO aircraft would be over the area and if the shelling continued he would use all necessary measures to stop it, including air power," she said.

It was the first known occasion on which the Muslim-led Bosnian army has been threatened with air strikes.

NATO warplanes have attacked Serb targets three times, most recently last Friday when they knocked out a Bosnian Serb M-18 anti-tank gun to punish the Serbs for snatching back heavy weapons from a U.N. compound in Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs have come under increasing military pressure from Muslim forces and have lost ground. The Muslims are believed to be taking advantage of a rift between the Bosnian Serbs and their backers in Belgrade.

Serbian-led Yugoslavia last week broke off relations with the Bosnian Serbs because of their continued rejection of an international peace plan to end the 28-month Bosnian war.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic hopes that by cutting off the Bosnian Serbs

he can avoid tougher U.N. sanctions to force the Serbs to accept the peace plan.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated for the first time that Washington would agree with efforts by its European allies to offer an easing of sanctions on Belgrade as a way of getting Serbia to bear down on Bosnian Serb leaders.

"If there is a substantial period of enforcement, of the intention that was expressed, if the border was effectively closed and if the Bosnian Serbs seem to be deprived of important aid and war-making material, clearly there then would be a case for easing sanctions," he told reporters.

Serbian authorities in Belgrade, apparently stepping up pressure on the Bosnian Serbs, are now blocking U.N. relief convoys trying to cross into Serb-held areas of Bosnia, U.N. officials said.

But the Bosnian Serbs remained defiant and their chief Radovan Karadzic said: "Serbia faces new humiliations by continuing with further appeasement."

He suggested Serbia might allow international monitors to be placed on the Bosnian

border to enforce the blockade.

If Mr. Milosevic did agree to allow international monitors on the Serbian-Bosnian border, major powers would seriously have to consider easing sanctions against Belgrade, analysts said.

Despite their isolation, the Bosnian Serbs have remained defiant and say they will look ahead with a referendum on Aug. 27-28, which is expected to reject the peace plan.

In northwest Bosnia, in a series of offensives in the last few weeks, the government Fifth Corps captured several key towns and sent several thousand civilians and armed rebel Muslim soldiers fleeing for safety across the border into the Serb-held Croatian territory.

Although having lost half of the territory, rebel leader Fikret Abdic swore to fight on: "I will stay with my people to fight for autonomy... we cannot be defeated, we are unbeatable."

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Abdic said the Serbs let the refugee and soldiers cross back to Bosnia near his Velika Kladusa stronghold Tuesday.

Kashmir rebels lift 'ban' on Hindu pilgrimage

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Kashmir's most powerful Muslim guerrilla group said Wednesday it was lifting its "ban" on Hindu pilgrimage to the Himalayan state.

The Hizbul Mujahideen said it had asked other militant organisations to drop their plans to sabotage the pilgrimage to the Amarnath Cave which began Wednesday.

The "ban" was originally imposed on July 6 by the Harkat-ul-Ansar, another guerrilla group with many Islamic mercenaries in its ranks, to protest the presence of troops outside the Hazrat Nizamuddin Mosque in Srinagar.

The Indian government removed the troops from the mosque, Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine, at the weekend.

In a statement, the Hizbul Mujahideen said it had decided to dissociate itself from the "ban" after an appeal from the Jamaat-e-Islami, its political wing.

It said a committee coordinating Muslim militant groups had been informed of the decision "so that other organisations also lift the ban

... so that Hindus can perform religious rituals without any hurdles."

Analysts said the group's example was expected to be followed by other guerrilla groups.

Muslim guerrillas killed a policeman when they hurled a grenade Wednesday at Hindu devotees during the annual festival in Kashmir, witnesses said.

Six other officers were injured in the attack in Srinagar's fortified police reception centre where 25 Hindu pilgrims were lodged since their arrival from New Delhi, witnesses said.

Security has been further tightened following the attack in the state summer capital and urban hub of an anti-Indian rebellion raging in Kashmir.

The grenade attack came hours after thousands of troops fanned out on a highway and moved in artillery to guard Hindus determined to make the pilgrimage.

A first batch of 500 Hindus set off Wednesday from Jammu for a sacred camp in Udhampur, the first leg of

the pilgrimage to the sacred caves in Amarnath in southern Kashmir, officials said in the state's winter capital.

The nervous devotees did not chant customary religious hymns as commandoes scanned their buses for bombs and booby-traps, witnesses said.

Ten Westerners, including two French students and a German, accompanied the Hindus saying they might visit Amarnath after a trip to Srinagar.

Officials said "foolproof" security arrangements have been made to thwart possible attacks on Hindu devotees who would travel 320 kilometres from Jammu to Amarnath.

Jammu's Chief Administrator D.R. Kundal said five army battalions, six battalions of paramilitary troops and 4,000 policemen comprising 15,000 men have been deployed along the 300-kilometre (180-mile) route from Jammu to Amarnath.

The army also deployed medium artillery and battle tanks and secured hilltops along the route to prevent possible attacks by outlawed

Kashmiri separatists.

Military helicopters would also reinforce the ground forces and the armour deployed along the route to the Amarnath caves, which Hindus believe to be the abode of Shiva, the God of destruction according to Hinduism.

Officials said they have made arrangements to house and guard up to 100,000 people scheduled to visit the ice caves from Aug. 16.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Commission for the future

THE ROYAL commission, with whose establishment His Majesty the King entrusted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan yesterday, is as serious and promising a step as any that can be taken by Jordan to prepare for the new era of peace. A speedy beginning to implementing the objectives outlined in the Royal letter would not only be a fitting present to the leader on the 42nd anniversary of his Accession to the Throne. It would also be the herald of a historic phase in running the affairs of the state in our new world.

It is probably too early to attempt exact definition of the scope and mechanism of the planned commission's work. It is not premature, however, to describe its stated aims as crucial ingredients for building post-peace modern Jordan.

Take, in this context, the need to prepare the country for receiving foreign investors and their investments, whether on the private or public sector levels, in terms of law or bureaucratic applications, and the inevitable conclusion would be: There is much that can and should be done to meet the target. Putting the right person in the right place, on the other hand, and stamping out corruption and graft, are essential for our development and progress, whether in attracting foreign investments or increasing our people's own confidence in themselves and their system of government.

But above all, it is the new "environment" that His Majesty stressed in his letter, in which a national collective sense would be created to activate and widen the circle of participation and excellence in the whole national effort, that should set our sights on what is truly required.

"In this context and emanating from my concern that our smooth transition towards the new phase is not in anyway obstructed, and knowing that to enter such a phase would require us to have fulfilled the imperatives of democratisation based on adherence to the Constitution, the National Charter and law, that I entrust you with assuming the responsibility for carrying out the preparations for such a drive," the King wrote to the Crown Prince, leaving nobody in any doubt about the parameters that will have to govern the country's fresh move towards readying itself for the future.

By entrusting His Royal Highness the Crown Prince with forming and heading the commission, His Majesty was signalling not only his seriousness about the work that lies ahead and needs to be done as we proceed towards a new era in the modern history of Jordan and the region as a whole. The King was also sending a clear and loud message to our people. It is that the time has come finally to abandon the quest for survival in favour of fighting the battle of modernisation and progress. This will be done, it is well understood, by respecting the rules of democracy, transparency and the law. And the new march will be pursued with determination and vigour, as indeed it should be done.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the resumption of Jordanian-Israeli talks at Wadi Araba and the Dead Sea, Al Dustour daily said that the talks constitute another constructive step towards the implementation of the Washington declaration. The declaration has provided a framework for the two sides to work out formulas for ensuring the success of the peace process, said the daily. Had it not been for the courageous stand of His Majesty King Hussein and the wise steps he had taken to pave the ground for peace, nothing could have been achieved, said the paper. Most important, the paper said, the King's wise leadership enjoys the support of all the Jordanian people who are keen on backing their leader's steps and his bold moves towards regaining the nation's usurped rights. As we witness the enthusiastic welcome of the King's steps as has been displayed by the various public sectors, our self-confidence is enhanced and our aspirations for a better future increase, said the paper. The talks at Wadi Araba and the Dead Sea, the paper added, can be seen as steps towards implementing the Washington declaration last month and inevitable stages leading towards a just peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Wednesday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's attitudes with regard to the Palestine National Authority. Mr. Rabin has been claiming that delay in withdrawing Israeli forces from the West Bank was caused by the delay in arranging for municipal council elections, said Mohammad Kawash. But Mr. Rabin has failed to note the difficulties hampering the elections created by the Israeli authorities. How can the Palestine National Authority prepare for elections under the Israeli rule where no freedom of movement is granted to the local population? asked the writer.

The View From Academia

Higher education, prestige and social chaos

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

IN OUR society, like in many others, education is viewed as a means to various ends, some noble and admirable and some not. Different people seek education for different purposes: Some for moral or intellectual development, some for knowledge, some for a fulfilling career, some for a well-paying job, some for a better social status and some for prestige. The latter purpose, which is the least noble and admirable, is unfortunately quite widespread in our part of the world at present, especially with respect to higher education.

Look, for example, at the social sections in our Arabic daily newspapers, particularly the congratulatory notes and messages people exchange on the occasions of students passing majors exams (such as the tawfiq, the comprehensive at the end of two years of community-college education, etc.) or graduation from the university. What function do such notes and messages serve? It is a way of telling your kid, brother/sister, friend, or neighbour that you really care and that you are happy for his or her success—i.e. is it merely an expression of feelings of love and support for the concerned person? Maybe. But could not such feelings be better conveyed face-to-face or privately? Does the whole world have to know about my feelings for my kid, brother/sister, friend or neighbour? Or are these notes and messages a way perhaps, in these times of high unemployment figures, of telling the employers that the person you are congratulating is now available and ready for a glorious career? I doubt it, for very few employers bother to look at these pages, and employment is better sought through more appropriate and effective channels.

It seems to me that the real motive behind the publication of such notes and messages, whether the act is done consciously or unwittingly, is pure show off. People do it, and therefore we have to do it. My neighbour congratulated his son; I have to congratulate my son. It is a decadent social habit, like so many decadent social habits with which we have been recently cursed. We publicise our test results and certificates because in our society it is prestigious to pass tests and acquire certificates.

Notice in particular the last sentence at the end of each note or message, a sentence which has become both a cliché and a must: "Wa 'Ukbal Al-Doctorab." Translated roughly, the sentence reads something like, "May you obtain a

PhD" or, "Wishing you a PhD." You wish someone a merry Christmas, good health, happiness, recovery from illness, success, etc. But a PhD? The way I understand it, a PhD. is simply a specialised degree in a very narrow sphere of learning, allowing a certain person to know more about an area within a field more than other people. Inherently, a doctorate does not make its holder morally better, intellectually better or financially better than others. For the most important works in society, one does not need a PhD. Why then this fascination, this obsession with it? Why do we wish it to every graduate? Quite simply, it is because people think it is fashionable and prestigious—like wearing a suit from Van Gils, like driving a Mercedes 500, or like holding a wedding at the Inter. Continental Hotel.

I saw a former student of mine the other day. He was extremely upset because he was not admitted to the graduate programme at Jordan University. When I asked him about what specific programme he wished to join, he said: "Anything. It does not matter." When I tried to calm him down and reason with him a little, saying maybe he would be accepted next year, he answered: "How long am I going to wait? I feel terrible. All of my friends have been accepted; some have already graduated with a masters or a PhD." These two answers, which during my 10 years of close encounter with higher education I have heard hundreds of times, are indicative of the kind of attitude or motive people in our society hold with regard to higher education.

I am all for personal freedom, and I am all for freedom of choice. Individuals have the right to pursue any activity or specialty they feel comfortable with or see fit. No one has the right to slight or make fun of their choices. We are all the product of our own mode of thinking and our own sense of what is appropriate and what is not. We should therefore wear Van Gils, drive a Mercedes 500, or hold a wedding at the Inter. Continental, if this is what we really want. In education, we are entitled to pursue any higher degree in any realm of learning, no matter how whimsical or nonsensical such realm may be at first, if we so feel.

But the "if" is crucial here. What I am against is the arbitrariness, haphazardness or mindlessness of choices. In my opinion, there is a big difference between conscious choices (i.e. knowing precisely what we want and why we want something) and impulsive or imitative behaviour. As

evident from the two responses of the student above, which are representative of what comfortable majority in our society thinks of higher education, most decisions about higher education on part of individuals in our part of the world are impulsive and imitative. We are not sure about what we want ("anything"), and we are letting our decisions be influenced almost entirely by the choices others make ("my friends have all been accepted").

This is a problem. I agree with Ralph Waldo Emerson "Imitation is suicide." Two negative consequences of our arbitrary decisions about higher education need to be asserted here. A) If we follow in the steps of our elders and peers blindly, what about our own ability and our own talent? Should not we choose a sphere or area we are qualified to compete and excel in? No wonder there is so much mediocrity of performance in our society and so much waste of talent. B) Where is the element of planning? How far are the choices made by people in our society, in their hot pursuit of higher education, actually affected by our plans? We have more engineers than we know what to do with, so many graduates of journalism, psychology, political science, Arabic literature, etc. By contrast, we have very few truly qualified mechanics, technicians, carpenters, teachers who can teach, civil servants who can serve, etc. In a word, our parents and our educators have generally failed to help us discover our talent and to direct our ability and potential. The result is disorder and confusion in the minds of the many students majoring in specialties they happen to have chosen and in the daily life of the social institutions they will soon join or they have already joined.

Absolute freedom is absolute chaos. Our educational institutions (the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Council, the schools, and the universities) have to come up with a mechanism whereby they provide help for students, enabling them as early as possible to detect their talents and to offer them some more tangible guidelines as to the spheres or disciplines which they and their society truly value. Choices about higher education have to be made on the basis of the following three criteria, collectively: 1) What one really likes or wants, 2) What one is good at, and 3) What society needs and wants.

It is time for us, individuals and institutions alike, to take our decisions a little more seriously and rationally.

The claims about 'Asian' values don't bear scrutiny

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — Singapore (population 2.8 million) has some of the world's harshest laws against smoking and other "anti-social" activities such as chewing gum. In Indonesia (population 180 million), it was recently claimed that culture factors would make it very hard to enforce any anti-smoking measures.

Muhammad Budyatna of the University of Indonesia said the local culture expected people to be accommodative and indirect, "to display empathy, to understand what others want or do not want." Most Eastern cultures were the same, he said, and offered a contrast to Western norms.

Over in Singapore, barely a day passes without a minister proclaiming the superiority of "Asian values" over those of the decadent West. Reference is often made to discipline and the commitment to group social values, the rights of the community over those of the individual.

These plus a commitment to family cohesion, education and saving are said to explain the social and economic progress made by Asia in the last 30 years. The lack or decay of such attributes in the West is seen as the cause of drug-taking, pornography, divorce and violent crime, these ills in turn being exacerbated by a permissive attitude to law enforcement.

But while some ills in the West are plain enough, are they Western? Do the "Asian values" exist, and are they reflected better by the Singaporean or the Indonesian smoking anecdotes?

It is certainly hard to quarrel with the role that education has played in Asian development. Particularly in East Asia and among those people who have combined a Confucian heritage of belief in the dignity of learning with a non-Confucian belief in social mobility, learning directed to practical ends—

in particular, engineering—has been the sine qua non. The desire to be top of the class has been a powerful stimulus to excellence at home and competitiveness abroad.

Yet it would be pushing the argument too hard to say that belief in educational excellence is so much stronger even in Taiwan than in Germany, or that its role in social mobility is so much greater in Japan than in the United States. Among the best of East and West, motivation and expectations may not be the same, but the value put on education may not be so different.

As for motivation seen in the likes of South Korea and Hong Kong, it may have as much to do with threat in one case and migrant mentality in the other.

In other parts of Asia the picture is very mixed. The Philippines may have little in the way of excellence, but it does have a worthy achievement in basic literacy. Likewise Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. In fact, they have much better records than China, despite its aeons of Confucian civilisation. Once ideology took precedence over learning. Now it is money grabbing.

As for India or Pakistan, they make Africa look like a centre of literacy achievement. Pakistan is neck and neck with Mozambique (65 per cent illiterate) at the bottom of the scale; India vies with Rwanda (50 per cent), and China with Zambia and Kenya (27 per cent). China and India, of course, both have islands of excellence. But commitment to education other than of a few?

What then of social cohesion and group rather than individual values? Can one find Asian common denominators and compare them with the West?

The social strengths and weaknesses of Norway are a world apart from Spain or the United States, which is regarded in Asia as the Western norm although in fact it represents the best and worst of the West.

Crime rates and safety in cities give very erratic readings east and west. Japan's order and self-discipline grow out of the social fabric rather than being imposed from above. But disciplined and dynamic South Korea has as much crime as an average big city in Europe. Dynamic, homogeneous Thailand is a byword for often violent lawlessness. China becomes more so by the day.

In impoverished Indian cities the problem is disorganisation and mayhem, not violent crime. Despite the diversity and lack of discipline, social cohesion exists most of the time.

What then of the theory that Asia is group- rather than individual-oriented, and thus more inclined to put group interests before selfish ones?

It is easy to make a case for this in Japan and South Korea, where loyalties tend to transcend family as well as individual. Postwar, Americanised Japan has known frequent changes of leader within a stable system. In Indonesia (two presidents in 45 years), the leader is on a pedestal, but, as in Japan, the notion of consensus runs deep. Even the late, megalomaniac President Sukarno had to admit: "I have made myself the meeting place of all trends and ideologies."

In the Chinese case, history almost seems to consist of a battle between the corporatist needs of the state and the interests of the families who operate it. Dynastic politics is evident in "Communist" China already, as in Singapore despite official commitments to bureaucratic meritocracy. Similarly with the Kuomintang inheritance in Taiwan, which won out until 1987, when lack of candidates and the pressure of opinion ended the Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek era.

Rulers who come to power in this manner can be effective in the same way as genuine monarchs, placing the common interests of state and society above sectional ones. But in much of

dynamic Asia, claims to ethical superiority over the tawdry vote-buying implicit in democratic politics—claims that leaders put group interests before personal ones, or national ones over individuals' rights—are questionable.

In China, Indonesia and Malaysia, just as previously in the Philippines, grant of monopolies to family and friends and "legal" purloining by well-placed individuals of assets owned by the government or in trust for certain groups have become so common-place as to be scarcely worthy of attention, even when the losers are listed companies.

This wealth distribution may have all kinds of useful functions in creating capitalist classes (albeit renter ones) where none existed before. It may be a sign of a dynamic and mobile economy, just as England was probably never more corrupt than during the 18th-century flowering of commerce, empire and intellect. But it is not the sort of behaviour that warrants a claim to "values."

East Asia has both some of the best (in Japan and South Korea) and some of the most venal bureaucracies. There are lessons for other countries in the constructive but wary relationship between bureaucracy and business. On the other hand, the relative decline of the quality and influence of the Thai bureaucracy shows how money can overwhelm institutions. Is that dynamism or social decay?

It is one of the paradoxes of the "Asian values" talk that the economic achievements of the region have in fact been accompanied by—or even caused by—breakdown of old social structures and values systems under the impact of foreign influence, but it overseas Chinese entrepreneurship, mass media or McDonalds.

Those who see straitlaced Singapore as the epitome of "Asian values" may not have stayed in anything less than a five star hotel in Japan; in most other hotels,

porno movies are on tap. Or may not have wondered why the most dynamic areas of Asia, which at present include the cities of Guangdong, to give just one of many examples, exhibit levels of prostitution far ahead of anything in Europe, and drug problems that are serious even in countries with draconian penalties for possession.

In many countries, explicit sex may be kept off movie screens, but mainstream print media in countries like Malaysia are more direct about sex than their U.S. counterparts were until very recently.

The family has so far survived as the linchpin of society throughout the continent. It is a reasonable generalisation that family solidarity Asia is much stronger than the average for the West.

The relatively low incidence of divorce and single-parent families may not reflect superior sexual morality, but it does have important consequences for social stability and for limiting welfare demands on the state. Indeed, the strength of the family is sometimes at the expense of the interests of the state, which is often viewed—especially in China—with suspicion, to be avoided if it cannot be exploited.

The emphasis on family or group obligations over individual rights is real enough in Singapore or South Korea, but it is a hollow claim in places where money-making is praised above all thought of the social or environmental impact on the nation or the family needs of workers. The welfare of Scandinavia, so derided in much of Asia, might be a better exemplar of the primacy of the perceived needs of society over the rights of the individual than much of Asia can offer.

With industrialisation relatively new to most of Asia, the longer-range social consequences have yet to show themselves. These countries have yet to confront the problems of an aging population, which

will hit more suddenly than they did in Europe. Meanwhile, there is an unstoppable trend to unitary families wherever there is enough money for each generation to be housed separately. Will family commitment in, say, Taiwan, prove much more effective than in Italy in protecting the old?

East Asia has the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of older industrialised societies, but how much is yet to be seen.

As for politics, it is as absurd to say that modern concepts of electoral democracy are un-Asian as to say that fascism is un-European.

There is no single model in politics, any more than there is in economics. Those in power naturally believe that the system which keeps them there is the best.

In many countries in Asia there has been and remains great pressure to enlarge the system of representation, although the means may vary and common denominators may be few. That explains perhaps why within Asia, even among those regarded in the West as most liberal and democratic, there is resentment at Western criticisms of their neighbours. Hence Thailand's attitude towards Western human rights pressure on Burma and South Korea's towards that on China.

It is not hard to see why any country would resent having its system, however inadequate, criticised by American congressmen or commentators. The words "Asian."

It may be possible to identify a few values more prevalent in parts of Asia than in the West. And vice versa. The same applies to vices. But the simplistic labels "Western" and "Asian" usually obscure the specifics of each country and situation, enabling all sides to substitute moralising for morality and propaganda for principles.

International Herald Tribune.

Korea nuclear deal possible, if the price is right

By Philippe Naughton
Reuters

GENEVA — An agreement between North Korea and the United States ending the nuclear stand-off in East Asia could finally be on the cards, but Pyongyang's price for such a deal has still to be negotiated.

Bilateral talks in Geneva took a significant step forward late on Monday when North Korea offered to freeze the construction of its graphite nuclear reactors and switch to a system less capable of producing nuclear weapons material.

North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju said he had also proposed ways of handling some 8,000 spent uranium fuel rods to "ease the concerns of the international community."

Experts say the rods could provide weapon-grade plutonium if they are reprocessed by the North Koreans themselves.

Only a month after the death of North Korea's "great leader" Kim Il-sung, the North Korean proposals could signal a new approach from the world's last Stalinist state. But the details of the

proposals are still not clear and any eventual deal could prove very costly, diplomats said.

Announcing North Korea's readiness to replace the graphite reactor, Mr. Kang said the north was only willing to switch technologies if we are given the more expensive light-water system in return.

Kang also said North Korea would need "proper and appropriate compensation" for freezing the construction of other graphite reactors it is building, a demand he said was "most reasonable."

Assistant U.S. Secretary

of State Robert Gallucci, heading the U.S. delegation, said the North Korean proposals were certainly worthy of consideration.

He spoke for the first time of progress, but gave no details on Mr. Kang's proposals.

Diplomats say the two most contentious questions remaining are firstly from where any light-water reactor would come and then who would pay for it.

For political and technical reasons, Pyongyang is said to be resisting a South Korean offer to provide the technology and is in-

stead pressing for a light-water reactor from Russia. On a recent visit to Moscow, Mr. Gallucci discussed with Russian officials the possibility of Moscow's help.

But with light-water systems costing several billion dollars, both South Korea and Japan are reluctant to bankroll the purchase of a Russian reactor.

At a previous round of Geneva talks in July 1993, North Korea agreed in principle to switch with U.S. help from graphite-moderated to light-water reactors.

Those talks collapsed, however, and tensions rose steadily on the Korean Peninsula as Pyongyang argued with the International Atomic Energy Agency over the Vienna-based watchdog's rights to inspect its nuclear facilities.

In June, when Pyongyang removed the spent uranium fuel rods from an experimental graphite reactor at Pyongyang, the row escalated and almost brought U.N. sanctions on North Korea, before a mediation visit by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter brought both sides back to the negotiating table.



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Weekender

Aug. 11, 1994

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Published Every Thursday

Looking forward to 14th Jerash Festival

By Mohammad Mashariqah

It was late evening at the Jerash South Theatre. The members of the Old Socks theatre group who came from England to perform the Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at the Jerash Festival were flickering around on the stage trying to fix their set according to design. One of the managers asked a Jerash administrator to bring instantly an engineer and designer to realise the ship construction. While they were discussing possibilities, one of the carpenters approached them and at both men's surprise stated in broken English that the ship will be finalised by dawn.

"Are you an engineer?" asked the Englishman. "No, sir, I am a carpenter," answered the carpenter. "How can you understand what he wants?" the Jerash administrator asked him in Arabic.

"What do you think, 13 years with the Jerash Festival gave me more experience than any newly graduated engineer could get from his books," the carpenter answered in a Bedouin accent.

The next day the ship was handed to the English group and \$25,000 was saved for the shipment of the original one. It made me think, how could the Jerash Festival's services be improved and greater help offered to the experienced cadre to perform their jobs with less pressure and higher efficiency?

The Jerash Festival's organisational team does big

amount of details and follow ups which sometimes decreases their availability for developing new systems in work and quicker response to the upcoming problems.

For this reason I believe that the Jerash Festival needs a larger organisational team with more sophisticated preliminary programme and much earlier termination deadlines for the preparatory phase. At least three months should be given for the realisation of the contractors' requirements, starting from accommodations, art and technical demands and promotion. To make the organisational aspect of the festival more efficient and successful, the realisation programme should be submitted to the contractors and local

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

parties involved in technical and organisational issues a month before the scheduled date of the Jerash Festival's opening, and it should comprise accurate dates and places of rehearsals, technical personnel in charge with their telephone numbers and their availability time.

As far as the promotional aspect is concerned, the festival should re-study its advertising policy, compromising between the modern means of the promotional communication and the local potentials for its application. The Jordanian experts in the field of art,



George Wassouf — the man that laid the egg

information, psychology and tourism should be recruited and new strategy should be implemented in propagating the festival along with the Jordanian economy and tourism.

New advertising policy should be competent enough to secure financial backing for the festival. The local companies should be informed and approached in time before assigning their annual advertising budgets, through a well-publicised campaign. In addition to the posters, brochures and other printed materials, more promotional space should be given within the archaeological site, where the companies could display their goods or announce them on specially designed electronic boards. The possibilities of marketing the festival at the international broadcasting market is yet another field of further exploration. Regarding aspects of the modern advertising policy, the festival would secure the financial stability and acquire its aspirations for selecting high standards for art and other events on the programme. Better financial balance also means accomplishing the international and local cultural role and improving its significance in breeding a creative art movement in the area. Hence, this year, the Jerash Festival made a historic breakthrough by establishing the Gerasia Creativity Forum, which was designed to be a launch pad for genuine art experiments at home in the field of theatre, music, dance, painting, poetry and



other fields of the performing arts. For the first time, the Jerash Festival partially financed the productions. The result was a rich variety of original artwork, capable of competing on Arab and international levels. The productions of Mr. Tariffi, Mr. Horani, Mrs. Mashara in the field of experimental theatre, music recital by Youssef Khashou, Walid Hashim, Faculty A. Sahar Hattar, Abedo brothers and other outstanding experiments made by the painter Adnan Sharif and many musicians who accompanied poetry recitals on their instruments, is yet another encouragement to the festival to keep up this positive role in enhancing the local art movement. If the festival doesn't adhere to such policy, it will gradually evolve into an alien element in the society. That would be the real fiasco. At the end we come to the conclusion that the Jerash Festival deserves much greater concern of all sectors of society. It needs more efforts and deeper responsibility for maintaining and developing its cultural, historical, national and international role.



A member of the Spanish group performs at the Artemis Steps during the Jerash Festival



A scene from William Shakespeare's The Tempest

Al Al Bayt University — a highly refined institute devoted to the Ummah

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is sadly ironic that of all the world's great religions, Islam is the one, perhaps, which stresses most in its teachings the unity of mankind through God. For as the 20th century draws to a close, Islam is endangered as never before by sectarian strife and division.

The youngest of the three Abrahamic faiths finds itself beset on all sides and rocked at its very base by both external and internal threats. Violent conflicts in Palestine, Bosnia and Kashmir with members of other faiths, Sunni-Shiite strife in several nations, and bitter feuding for authority over the state between Muslim fundamentalists and secularists are but a few of the faces of this profound crisis.

It is into this world that one of His Majesty King Hussein's most ambitious brainchildren, Al Al Bayt University, will enter when it opens its doors to students for the first time on Oct. 1 of this year.

When King Hussein first publicly spoke of his vision for this new Islamic school almost two years ago, his rhetoric was bold and at times outspoken. He called for the creation of Al Al Bayt University as an international forum where professors and students from throughout the Islamic World would gather, and attempt through their studies and research to forge a new harmony out of the diverse and often conflicting threads of native traditions and foreign influences which have impacted the Muslim Ummah, from the ancient times of its founding until the modern age of today. They would do so, the King said, "within an atmosphere of complete freedom of speech."

"Islam does not hide secret objectives used as camouflage to bring in political ideology or to achieve gains at the individual or factional levels," the King said at the time, in an obvious criticism of the many religious factions which vie for political leadership throughout the Ummah.

At the very beginning of the disasters and setbacks which have eaten away at the fabric of the Ummah over the last few centuries, including the decay of the Ottoman Empire and the unstoppable advance of European colonialism, "Muslim thinkers inevitably came to realise that something had gone wrong for the Muslim people," Dr. Mohammad Al Bakhit, the man chosen by King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to be the president of Al Al Bayt University, told the Jordan Times.

"Muslims came to feel very deeply that they were no longer the masters of their own destiny."

The result, he explained, was the evolution of two major Islamic movements — both of them an attempt to cope with the same set of threatening circumstances,

but each radically opposed to the other in its direction.

The most visible and powerful movement was the call for a return to a "purified Islam," purged of foreign and industrial age influences, which were seen by its advocates as irrevocably contradictory to Islam and its teachings, Dr. Bakhit said.

This movement saw its first major success with the Wahabi preachers, who played a vital role in the founding of Saudi Arabia, perhaps the world's most ultra-religious state. The movement has now exploded into worldwide prominence with the rise of Muslim fundamentalism throughout the Islamic World over the last two decades.

However, it is the second and much smaller movement of thought which Dr. Bakhit and his colleagues in the Royal Commission in charge of founding and watching over Al Al Bayt University hope to nourish and foster.

This second movement, shared between a limited few of Islam's scholars and thinkers over the last two centuries, calls for a return to the ancient principle of "Bab Al Ijtihad." This principle, which has lain dormant in mainstream Sunni Islam for over a thousand years, holds that the teachings of Islam should be kept open to Muslim scholars and thinkers on an enduring basis for reevaluation and interpretation, in order to maintain a critical balance between Islam's original gospels and the unceasing impact of historic and social changes which exert their effects on the Ummah with the progression of time.

"We want to pick up the threads of this movement, but with more strength and broader vision than have been used before," said Dr. Bakhit. "With the communications revolution invading every bit of this planet, no one can pretend that he can isolate himself from the rest of the world."

To reopen the door of Ijtihad, Dr. Bakhit and his colleagues hope to gather together on the university's campus an international group from among the best and brightest of the Ummah's scholars "to think deeply, in a very careful and intelligent manner, and give their opinions on the subjects which are presented to them."

Although the university will aim to draw together Muslim students from all of the nations of the Ummah, Dr. Bakhit said, he stated emphatically that the primary language of research and instruction at Al Al Bayt University will be Arabic.

"The people of the Ummah need solutions to the endless problems facing them," he said. And as Arabic is the original language of the Koran, "giving the answers to those problems in Arabic will give them a sense of closeness and understanding towards those answers."

In addition to seeking to heal the many rifts which

have fragmented the Ummah through a return to Bab Al Ijtihad, the university's directors hope to play a part in narrowing the huge gap of misunderstanding and mistrust which has prevailed between Muslims and members of other faiths across the centuries, particularly between the Ummah and the Western World.

"Islam is a noble culture, and it is high time that the many stereotypes and phobias against Islam are dropped," Dr. Bakhit said. "We are in the process of developing a global community," which means that the establishment of mutual trust between all faiths is needed. He added that both Muslims and those on other sides of the religious fence are equally responsible for the success or the failure of the undertaking.

As a part of its endeavours to bridge this gap, Al Al Bayt University will be accepting a limited number of non-Muslim students into its programme to study Islamic history and sociology, and will also maintain a close affiliation with a new institute for cross-religious studies which has been established in cooperation with the Vatican — the Royal Institute for the Study of Religions.

That Al Al Bayt University is an ambition which is beyond price to the Hashemite family, there can be no doubt. For the Royal Commission which will steer the new university is personally chaired by Prince Hassan, and in addition, the legal charter of the new school explicitly separates it from any accountability towards either the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Higher Education.

But what sort of reception the international school may receive from the many Islamic conservatives and fundamentalists who play such a strong role in shaping Islamic thought today remains to be seen — fundamentalists have long been opposed to the principle of Bab Al Ijtihad, which they see as a questioning of the unquestionable — the core principles of Islam as spelled out in the Koran and its other holy books.

As well, King Hussein's strongly worded speech two years ago seemed to indicate that what will ultimately be produced from the research and studies of Al Al Bayt University is by no means expected to please everyone in the Islamic World.

For his part, Dr. Bakhit downplayed predictions that Al Al Bayt University might stir controversy in the Ummah: "We are not aiming to oppose any particular faction, and we have no intention to indulge ourselves in politics — we are a highly refined institute, devoted to the Ummah."

However, the new university's president could not help but reveal by the manner of his speech that he is a man with a dedication to a cause: "We believe that knowledge is power, and we ask all people to join ranks with us to fight ignorance and fanaticism," he said, with an unmistakable resolve in his voice.

Gates of hell open, ghosts in high spirits

By Kenneth L. Whiting

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Nobody seems overly worried, but people in Singapore believe that the gates of hell opened Sunday.

Chinese tradition holds that the gates stay open during the seventh lunar month — Aug. 7 to Sept. 5 in the Western calendar this year — when the spirits of the dead are free to roam among the living.

Restless spirits with living relatives are said to visit their homes to share the comforts there. But the ghosts of those who died without descendants, or who were ignored by their kin while alive, may wander the streets, hungry and envious.

Unless appeased with food and entertainment before they return, these wayward spirits might cause mischief.

Open-air puppet shows, Chinese operas and pop concerts are staged for the dead and their descendants.

Ancestor-worshippers also burn "hell money," mock currency issued by the Bank of Hell, to ensure the ghosts have enough cash.

Some provide the spirits with make-believe passports known as "permits for the souls."

Public feasts are arranged and the hungry ghosts are invited to partake. Chicken, pork, rice and fruit are the staples. The food and drink is later

consumed by the living guests.

Candles and incense sticks burn throughout this city-state, where 76 per cent of the three million people are Chinese.

Not a formal holiday, the festival of the hungry ghosts was celebrated in Singapore as early as 1836, according to the Federation of Chinese Clan Associations.

Nowadays, the Tourist Promotion Board touts it as an attraction for visitors.

The origin of the festival is obscure, but ancestor worship has always been a part of Chinese culture.

One legend credits the festival to Emperor Wu of the Lisang Dynasty (A.D. 502-577) who, in a dream, was told to organise rites to venerate the dead.

A more anecdotal version says it originated with a double suicide similar to Romeo and Juliet, and the annual feasts are thrown in their honour.

In exchange for the annual welcome, the ghosts are expected to reciprocate by helping those still on Earth. Worshippers often seek the blessings of their ancestors in picking winning combinations of numbers in the weekly lottery.

One Singaporean calls it "a month for being jittery," when believers avoid going out at night and forbid their children from some everyday activities like swimming.

Recreating the wheel

By Jean-Claude Elias

Ever since the personal computer (PC) concept was introduced in the early eighties, analysts and software designers realised that the users were going to look for ready-made, easy to learn, easy to use programmes. By the middle of the decade, the main targets were well-defined: Word processing, electronic spreadsheets and databases. Even today, these three groups constitute the bulk of the software Mr. Everybody needs.

It took until the end of the decade, circa 1990, for other, more specialised applications to be well-implemented as ready-made products. These included programmes like CAD (Computer Aided Design), Graphic tools and more particularly Accounting.

While PC users seem to have easily accepted most of the available ready-made programmes, also called packages, they are still reluctant to trust the ones that allow them to handle their accounts, preferring to have experts develop tailor-made software for them. This attitude is more perceptible in the Middle East than in Europe or the United States for instance.

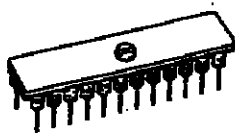
The advantages of ready-made software versus tailor-made are well-known and was made the subject of this very column a few weeks ago: Immediately available, less costly, well tested, etc.

Why is it then that the average user in the Middle East likes Excel, Lotus, Word, WordPerfect, dBASE, FoxBase, Autocad, Corel Draw, but reluctantly accepts DacEasy, Sage, Pacoli or Peachtree (four well known Accounting systems)?

Based on information gathered in Jordan over more than ten years, taking into consideration only small to middle size private companies or business (banks excluded), I estimate that only 20 per cent of them use ready-made Accounting systems while the remaining 80 per cent opt for painful, long, risky, expensive software development.

When it comes to letting computers handle your money, you only trust what you have personally designed and developed. This attitude, this fear rather,

chip talk



partly understandable, is but a reflection of very conservative, old fashioned ideas.

Standard Accounting packages are perfectly tested. They also cover most cases and can be perfectly tailored by the user or the operator to suit his taste or needs. They were designed by people who are experts in software and accounting and therefore give you the very best in the field.

However, being able to manipulate such programmes requires a little effort and preparation at the beginning. This is what usually frightens most people. A good understanding of the accounting principles and the structure of a chart of accounts is essential. Many managers, unfortunately, do not have, or at least do not master these notions.

Another reason why this phenomenon is more obvious in our area is that most packages here are pirated copies, sold or distributed without the original documentation that comes with the legal, original product. Without such documentation the user has little or no possibility to properly learn how to use the software.

When one looks at the price of original Accounting systems, one wonders how do people still turn to tailor-made development. From simplest to most sophisticated, ready-made packages are available at prices ranging from \$80 to \$400.

With such little cost to bear for excellent software, is it still worth recreating the wheel?

Somebody to lean on

By E. Yaghi

Haitham is a legally blind student at a public institution of higher learning in Amman. Several days ago, the following incident happened to him. As he sat at his desk, the professor entered and announced to the class: "We will go directly to the technical building to see a film concerning the subject we are studying."

Students usually thrill at deviating from the norm and also enjoy a break in routine, so almost as one, the group flooded out of the large lecture room and made its way towards entertainment. However, no one remembered Haitham, who may know his way around familiar classrooms in one area, but appeared confused and lost in any effort to make his way towards the technical building. The flood had soon gone on ahead of him leaving him nearly turned round about as passing students had quickly formed themselves into twos and threes intent on reaching their destination as fast as possible in order to reserve a front seat. Poor Haitham stood alone on the steps of the white building which housed his lectures with an expression of abandonment on his face. He groped down the steps and just about lost his footing as some students passing by either ignored him or sneered at him because of a weakness that he was not responsible for. Though the youth's built is smallish and thin, at first glance, it is difficult to discern that he is legally blind, but anyone would notice that there is something either physically or mentally deficient about him, regardless of the fact that there is no sign that his eyesight is very weak. He is a meek, mild and polite young man who pays attention to the lectures and tends to become annoyed at the immature antics of some of his fellow colleagues. He is cordial and trusting like a child and certainly did not deserve to be abandoned on the steps all alone without a helping hand or someone to lean on.

He stumbled down the stairs nearly falling and his legs twisted around themselves until he untied them with some effort swerving in a crooked path, still groping for a way to reach the technical building in one piece. He cut across a street where students swarmed in all directions spinning him in a semi-circle with complete indifference. Slowly, like the turtle racing the hare, Haitham tried to edge his way up some steps of a steep incline, putting his foot and stepping where there was no place to step and tripping on stairs that he didn't expect. A one-legged shepherd in ancient clothing had silently observed the youth from early on

and not able to bear the situation any longer, hobbled on his cane nearer Haitham and at last said in a gruff voice: "Here boy, lend me your hand. We all need somebody to lean on sometimes in our lives! Come on, I'll take you where you're heading for I'm going there too."

Haitham recognised the voice of his crusty classmate and knew him to be the old man who decided to get a degree even if it killed him. He had often wondered why anyone so old would even bother to study at all. What good would a degree do him? He had even been so bold once to ask the antique shepherd: "Why sir do you study? Are you planning to work once you get your diploma?"

The old man roared in laughter and then when he calmed down a bit chuckled out: "Well, no, my boy. I am seeking knowledge as if one might look for a treasure, for I want to enrich myself with something much more valuable than anything material. I need to be spiritually enlightened. Man cannot live by bread alone now can he? Can you understand, or do you think I'm an old fool?"

He didn't really understand but he shook his head anyway, and now, here the old shepherd was by his side, grabbing his arm with angry force and pulling him up the stairs. The crippled leading the blind. Everyone stared but the old man paid no attention and the youth didn't know the difference. At last they reached the technical building where the shepherd let go of the boy's arm, leaving him to grope for a place to sit down. The old shepherd hopped to an empty place, threw down his cane and sat with a thump and proceeded to grumble to those beside him: "No one to help that poor youth! What is the matter with the students? Why didn't anyone bother to assist the boy? Everyone went their own way just worried about themselves, never thinking to look back and check on someone who needed them. I think there is something wrong with a people that don't take care of the innocent, the poor, the humble and someone who needs somebody to lean on. Whatever is this world coming to?"

The movie room was dark and cool. He started to watch the film apparently shutting out the glare of the red sun outdoors and putting aside his annoyance at least until the movie about other people's problems ended. Meanwhile, Haitham could hardly see what was happening and the noise of the film mixed with students' whispers and blended together in a distracting hum.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

— In 1890, a cow called Mollie, from Ohio, USA began giving black milk. The phenomenon had the scientists of the day baffled. But the milk tasted very good as did the butter made from it, although it did look like a slab of coal tar.

— George Washington (1732-1799), the first U.S. president, was also its first millionaire. He died in the last hour of the day, the last day of the week, of the last month of the year of the last year of the century.

— The sport is thought to have originated in Egypt when children used large stones set up as pins and used small stones as a ball.

— Only half an hour after he is born a mountain goat can stand quite firmly and indeed will most probably try to climb up the nearest hill.

— The American, Thomas Stevens, was the first person to ride around the world on a bicycle. It took him three years to complete the trip.

— Many people would think that farming is the oldest industry — in fact, the oldest industry is the production of chopping tools and axes, known as "flint knapping" which started about 1,750,000 years ago.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Where's the Royal Jordanian Airlines office, please?
yna maktab al-khotoot al-jaw'riya Al-Malakiya Al-Orduniya, min fadlik?

— I'd like to book two seats on Monday's plane to Iqaba.
reed an ahjiz mak'adaya ala taa'iret youm el-ethnain elal-Aqaba.

— Is there a flight to Egypt on Thursday?
al-hawaka rehlik tayaran ala Misr youm el-Khamis?

— Is there a coach from the town to the airport?
al-toofad arabet hantour minal-madina elal-matar?

— When must I check in?
Matat yajib tasjeel jawaz as-safar?

— I'd like to change my reservation.
Oreed tag'yeer el-hajz.

— I'd like to postpone my flight for reasons beyond my control.
reed ta'jeel ar-rihla le'asbab kharija an iradat.

— Am I allowed to take my little dog with me on a plane?
al-Yosmah lee be'an sakhodh ma'le kalbi as-saghir ala'la'ira?

TIME FOR FUN

A French villager once went to a city. While coming, he heard shouting and singing. He realised it was a wedding. Asking about the bridegroom, one of the guests answered: "Je ne sais pas" meaning I don't know.

On the other day as he was walking along the street, he saw a funeral and asked about the dead

man. In answer to his question a passer-by replied: "Je ne sais pas." Then he said to himself: "Poor this 'je ne sais pas', he married yesterday and has died today!"

A simpleton once visited a town for the first time. He was attacked by its dogs which were going to bite him. He tried to pick up a stone with which he might have kept the fierce dogs away, but it was too difficult for him to do so. Then he said: Cursed be those townfolk who let loose their dogs and fasten their stones.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is an artesian well and why so called?
2. What is the difference between a KEPI and an OKAPI?
3. What is the origin of the symbol (?) for question mark?
4. What is the name for a native of:
A. Liverpool
B. Newcastle
C. Moscow
D. Manchester
E. Glasgow
F. Texas
5. What fruit is not eaten until it is rotten?

YOUR CHARACTER IN FOCUS

Born on June 3

- Has independent views about religion.
- Positive and determined in his ideas and rather obstinate in carrying out his plans.
- Confident of his ability.
- Self-reliant and takes his own decision.
- Has the habit of talking loudly.
- Fond of show and likes to observe form, order and law.
- Joyful in spirit and cordial in manner.
- His passions are healthy, spontaneous and without inhibitions.
- Devoutly religious and has true dignity.
- Has tremendous enthusiasm and is not self-centred.
- Takes an active interest in sports and outdoor activities.
- His intellect is of a very high order.
- Broadminded, tolerant, humorous and truthful.
- Open-hearted with good understanding.

PUZZLES

(A) Make one new word from the two words in each line rearranging and using all the letters.

1. ale + bun
2. tag + amen
3. tan + spin
4. money + scud
5. riot + dunce

(B). Insert the word that completes the first word and starts the second:

CLUE : SPIN
S (...) E

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 11

8:30 Heart Of Courage

Rescue operations that carry danger and risk.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Goodbye Charlie

All it takes for someone to inherit a great wealth, is to get a true identification of the "dead" body.

10:00 News In English

Friday, Aug. 12

9:10 E.N.G.

False Step

A father avenges the death of his 14-year-old daughter and Melinda uses the power of TV to expose her husband.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie gets closer to her friend Evin, especially when he is seeking help for his sick mother.

11:10 Dad's Army

Man Hunt

Old army recruits learn that not all parachuters are Germans.

Saturday, Aug. 13

7:30 Dimension-X

How fungi and other living things work in the soil under our feet.

8:30 Movies, Games and Videos

A look at the latest computer games, videos, and movies that are hits at the box office.

9:00 One To One

9:30 The Campbells

Bird Of Paradise

A woman, in search of rare birds, comes face to face with Dr. James. She tells him there are people who want to destroy her work.

10:00 News In English

Sunday, Aug. 14

8:30 Coach

Baby Wreckers

It is an obvious mistake that Haydn consents to "baby sit" — even for a short time!

9:10 Quantum Leap

Rebel Without A Clue

Sam is trapped in the past — in 1958. His mission: To save a young woman.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

The two sisters' projects improve and expand.

Monday, Aug. 15

8:30 Big Brother Jake

The World Of Mrs. Fang

Jake and friends remember old Mrs. Fang as she considers leaving the neighbourhood.

9:10 A Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English

10:20 Matrix

A Madness To His Method

Matrix needs to discover the truth behind a lunatic, dressed as a pirate, who claims that a local industry is dumping toxic waste that poisons the water.

11:10 No Job For A Lady

Jean, the Labour parliamentarian, looks into the issue of "murderers held in jail."

Tuesday, Aug. 16

8:30 Hollywood Stunt Makers

Meet the people who risk their necks to keep you in stitches — a behind the scene look at "comedy stunts."

9:10 The Commish

Do You See What I See?

Commissioner Scali and his vigilant men are after a serial rapist whose victims are wealthy women.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Rose Against The Odds

The story of a young, ambitious aborigine from Australia who runs against the odds and becomes a national boxing champion.

Wednesday, Aug. 17

8:30 Harry And The Hendersons

Roots

Old American Indian medicines are the only remedies for George's injured knee.

9:10 The Nature Of Things

The Vision Of The Blind

The photographed auditory landmark objects that a blind man identifies, by how they reflect or absorb sound become his "visual images" in his world.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Nanny

Sunday In The Park

Who could tolerate a noisy boy? The Nanny tries to, as she realises he is the son of a very influential father?

Screen star leads his brothers into a new acting dynasty

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — He is the self-styled Daniel Boone of the acting world, the pathfinder in whose footsteps his brothers have followed.

Alec Baldwin came first, achieving stardom in the 1990s. Then, William, Stephen and Daniel have followed him into the acting field.

"Familiarity breeds contempt, as you know," Alec comments lightly.

"They thought, 'if this bozo can do it, we can do it. That's the way it is in my family. They would watch me on TV and say, 'I can't believe they're paying \$250,000 for this money to appear on TV.' And hang as soon as they could get a ticket, they were out here on the first plane."

No sibling rivalry among the quartet?

"Oh, sure there is. My

brothers are younger and thinner than I am. They're taking the food out of my mouth. Enormous resentment at times," he says.

"Not really. We never go up for the same parts. My brothers and I. There are enormous differences between us. I don't think they can play the (characters)... I play... intense, willful.... They tend to do more coming-of-age things, young and innocent."

It is true that in his early career Baldwin seemed to specialise in lowdown characters: Melanie Griffith's no-good boyfriend in Working Girl, Michelle Pfeiffer's hit-man husband in Married To The Mob, the thieving psycho in Miami Blues.

Now he's playing the old-time radio superhero The Shadow.

The film's prologue depicts the hero Lamont Cranston as "the butcher of Lhasa," a bloody drug merchant in Tibet who is captured by a supernatu-

ral mystic and sent back to the United States to redeem himself by battling evil.

The actor cited the famed intro to the radio show, intoned by Orson Welles: "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The shadow knows."

"The translation of that is: This guy has been there," Baldwin said. "Unlike a lot of other superheroes who seem to have stepped right out of a Boy Scout uniform, Cranston has lived a little, and he knows a little about evil."

Alexander Rae Baldwin III was born 36 years ago in the Long Island, N.Y., town of Massapequa. His father was a high school teacher and football coach who instilled his six children with a social conscience and a sense of honesty.

Baldwin recalls that the brothers were good mimics who shared their father's love of movies.



Alec Baldwin with his wife actress Kim Basinger

"But I don't think any of us ever thought about acting," he recalled. "That was for other people."

Not until he was attend-

ing George Washington University in Washington, D.C., did he take an interest in drama. He transferred to the acting programme at New York Uni-

versity and studied with the legendary Lee Strasberg. Before he graduated, his dark good looks landed him a villainous role in the daytime serial

The Doctors.

"I loved working on a soap. Fantastic training," he commented. "You're forced to make choices. Based on my experience, you need to make all the wrong choices first. Only the most gifted actors 'got it' right away."

"I think what made Brando so great was that he was knocking people down when he was 25 years old. That's rare. The saying goes, 'by the time you know how to play Hamlet, you're too old to play Hamlet.'"

He moved on to a short-lived action series Cutter To Houston and the nighttime soap Knot's Landing. His film debut in Forever Lulu was quickly forgotten, but he began playing secondary roles in successful films.

The Hunt For Red October thrust him above the million-dollar-a-movie mark. But he declined the follow-up in Patriot Games to appear in New

York opposite Jessica Lange in A Streetcar Named Desire.

Controversy has followed Alec Baldwin since his stardom: His public squabble with the Walt Disney Co. over the disastrous The Mummy Man; his defence of wife Kim Basinger, who was ordered to pay \$8.1 million in a movie contract dispute; his scathing attacks on politicians, mostly conservative Republicans.

Baldwin and Basinger are frequent targets of the scandal sheets.

"You get used to it," he reflected. "I never thought that was true. If you had asked me two years ago, I never would have said that. But you do get used to it. You realise that people are going to make assumptions about you."

"I guess the only problem would be if they stopped making assumptions about me."

Flintstones stable supplied by British designer

By Kate Kelland
Reuters

LONDON — A life-sized Brontosaurus model was dismantled and shipped from its birthplace in a draughty north London warehouse across the Atlantic to the Stone Age set of Steven Spielberg's latest film The Flintstones.

In Hollywood, the creature was re-assembled and joined the ranks of U.S. rock characters from The Muppets, Sesame Street, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles which were all created by the same London designers.

When Spielberg asked designers at Jim Henson's London Creature Shop to make models for The Flintstones, now playing in Britain, he was not looking for a glamorous studio — just eccentric creature shop.

FR& creature shop

prides itself on designing character beasts, animals with a reality that tickles adults' as well as kids' sense of humour.

"Adults are open to having more fun these days... and we can make very strongly realistic creatures," said Jamie Courtier, the creature shop's design supervisor for the film.

"For the Flintstones project I would say that we were almost undoubtedly, completely qualified to do the job," he said.

"Our reputation is specifically built around character creatures which is what the Flintstones are. They are creatures with personality."

The reality of designing and producing the animals for Spielberg's movie was about 16 weeks of frantic activity.

"Every day we sent out

every day my job was to speak to Brian Levant (the director) and discuss yesterday's drawings," said Courtier. "Then he would fax back suggestions — 'I'd like a bit of this' — 'I like this nose.'"

With the final approval of miniature models came the task of building real creatures — including the Brontosaurus — in the London workshop and shipping them to Los Angeles for filming.

"The design brief was very open," said Courtier, dispelling the suspicion that Spielberg dictates to the last whisker the look of his characters.

"They came to us with a script which named the creatures — like the 'Pig-saurus waste disposal unit' — and they left it to us as a design entity to come up with the goods. It was great."

Spielberg's relations with the creature shop be-

gan with an invitation for design and budget proposals for his prehistoric blockbuster Jurassic Park.

The creature shop didn't get that job, but Courtier is confident their work on The Flintstones established firm links with one of the most important names in the world's film industry.

The staying power of creations from the creature shop — Sesame Street's Big Bird and the Muppets' Animal — suggests a sound base for The Flintstones, and Courtier sees the momentum in this film genre continuing.

"Interest and appetite for fantasy films waxes and wanes to a certain extent but there will always be a market," he said. "The imagination and exploration of imaginary places, imaginary events and creatures is so much part of the human psyche."

Courtier sees the creature shop as a design source which makes the fantasy reality.

The film has been accompanied by a flood of merchandise.

"I think the designers should be on royalties for creating the things in the first place," Courtier joked.

Around 200 products — including children's pyjamas, pencil sharpeners, sweets and talking alarm clocks — have hit the movie-going public, some of them months before The Flintstones was even released.

Unofficial estimates forecast takings of £20 million (\$30 million) from merchandise alone.

"In the case of the Flintstones, its extraordinarily all encompassing... but the kids crave the stuff. I suppose it's a tribute really," Courtier said.



From left: Rosie O'Donnell, and Elizabeth Perkins in the Rick Moranis, John Goodman movie The Flintstones

But he laments the apparent inability of the British film industry to exploit national talent for its own gain rather than watching Hollywood's heavyweights move in and claim it for themselves.

"Part of the character of this country is the inventiveness and artistry that stems from being part of Europe and from our tradition," he said.

"It's the 'wow' factor that the Americans are very good at. They have this grasp, they seem to be

able to make films that make you go 'wow'."

"But we need a Londonwood. We've got the ability, there's no doubt about it. We should try and find the 'wow' factor."

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Saint-Exupery — a reluctant hero turned legend

By John Follain
Reuters

PARIS — A reluctant hero with his life, Count Antoine-De Saint-Exupery, author of The Little Prince, is being glorified as France marks the 50th anniversary of his mysterious disappearance.

The writer's career as a pioneering aviator and the romantic way he died on July 31, 1944 — vanishing over the Mediterranean on a mission to prepare for a Allied landing in Provence — have done much to keep the legend alive.

Shortly before his death, Saint-Exupery had been grounded after crashing a plane in a crash landing.

But he tirelessly lobbied his superiors and finally won permission to fly from Corsica, aboard the American P38 lightning plane. Bound for Lyon on a reconnaissance mission, he vanished somewhere between Corsica and the French Riviera.

Dead at only 44, Saint-Exupery remains the eternal child of modern French literature — like the endearing hero of his masterpiece Le Petit Prince, in which a pilot discovers universal truths through a chance encounter in the desert.

He received the legend of a leading aristocrat, one of a breed of daring aviators, unleashing a new wave of editions and making the seabed for the wreckage of his plane.

The biggest accolade is publication by the prestigious Pleiade series of the first volume of Saint-Exupery's collected works including several letters.

Publisher Gallimard has also produced a glossy picture album given free to any buyer of three works in the Pleiade series.

The culture channel Arte dedicated an evening's programming to Saint-Exupery this month, and public broadcaster France Television is making a film on his last mission.

The adulation has several precedents. When he served as culture minister, fellow writer Andre Malraux, himself a former aviator, said Saint-Exupery would be laid to rest in the Pantheon — if his body were ever found.

Last autumn, the Bank of France honoured him by putting his face on a new 50-franc note — misspelling his name with a superfluous accent on the first "E".

Always a pilot first and a writer second in his own eyes, Saint-Exupery was a private man, a dreamer who clung to the loneliness of the aviator. He flew for the first time at the age of 12 and was happiest in the pilots' mess swapping tales of engine failures and forced landings.

He rewrote a great deal, had many doubts, and did not deliver the articles and books he promised. He was elsewhere, busy with his new car, his new friends, a

journey, a passion," his American translator Lewis Galantiere remembered.

Saint-Exupery's passion for flying permeates his works, which are largely autobiographical. In "Vol De Nuit" (Night Flight), he tracks a plane trapped in a storm over Brazil. In "Pilote De Guerre" (Flight To Arras), he draws on his experience as a pilot at the beginning of World War II.

The writer sought refuge in the United States after France's defeat by Nazi Germany in 1940. Because he refused to rally behind the Gaullist Free French, he was regarded by some as a supporter of the collaborationist Vichy regime.

Long before he took to writing, Saint-Exupery risked his life to fly mail across deserts and oceans for the pioneering Aeropostale line.

Launched in 1918, the line initially started at Toulouse and stopped at Barcelona. It was slowly extended to Casablanca and Dakar, and then across the Atlantic to Brazil in 1930.

In 1928, when he was station-master in Cap-Juby on the coast of Africa opposite the Canary Islands, Saint-Exupery wrote his first book, Courrier Sud, about the Toulouse-Dakar line.

In 1935, he tried to beat the record for Paris-Saigon, but crashed in the Libyan desert and was rescued by a caravan. He set The Little Prince, pub-

lished posthumously, on the spot where his plane hit the ground.

Saint-Exupery's luck ran out in 1944. His squadron's duty officer entered in the log-book: "Pilot did not return and is presumed lost."

Today, many still refuse to accept that verdict. Historians, former pilots and witnesses have all tried to solve the enigma.

Among the theories: German fighters shot his plane down. Someone sabotaged it, suffering from old wounds, the pilot fainted in the heat of his cockpit. He committed suicide.

Salvage experts sponsored by a champagne maker and backed by the French Navy searched the Riviera off Nice, Monte-Carlo and Saint-Laurent-Du-Var in 1992.

Last summer, sonar revealed a shape which could be that of a plane in the Gulf of Giens but divers found nothing.

In March, the body hunt called briefly and inconclusively on the sleepy town of Carqueiranne near Giens after its mayor said a body thrown up by the sea in September 1944, and buried in the local cemetery, could be Saint-Exupery's.

"His body was never meant to be found," wrote historian Rene Chambe in his History Of Aviation.

"Did he not belong... to a caste for whom a coffin is too narrow? They escape from it and lose themselves in the immensity of sky, earth and water."

Tired of gambling? Try ventriloquism show

By Richard Younger
Reuters

NEW YORK — In the neon heart of Las Vegas, a few hundred dummies have taken up residence — not the kind who lose their shirts to gambling, but the wooden variety.

They are part of Valentine Vox's ventriloquism exhibit at the newly opened Magic and Movie Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is the brainchild of Retonio Breitenmoser, a memorabilia collector and founder of the Magic Casino in Switzerland, which was also curated by Vox.

"Basically, we've relocated the European museum over here," Vox told Reuters in a recent telephone interview from Las Vegas. "It's a much more suitable location for it."

Some of the Hall of Fame's featured artefacts include Houdini's leather straitjacket, Liz Taylor's gown from Cleopatra, Edgar Bergen's famed dolls Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd, antique arcade games, plus toys, books, playbills and postcards relating to ventriloquism and magic.

Visitors are also treated to hourly performances in the 150-seat Houdini Theatre, where Vox entertains nightly with his doll Jorge, alternating with several other specialty acts.

The British-born entertainer is also author of the recently published book I Can See Your Lips Mov-

ing: The History And Art Of Ventriloquism (Plato/Players Press), the most comprehensive study ever written on the subject.

"I built my exhibit on the basis of my book," he says, "so what you see in the book is on the walls of the museum. It has a story line: The history of the art over the past few thousand years right up to the present day."

The book, which took 20 years of research, was begun in the mid-60s when Vox, then working as a children's TV show host in Canada, was asked to record an album on ventriloquism.

"I went to the libraries to write a historical intro for the album," he says, "and realised there was no documented work on the history of ventriloquism, only trivial things. That really began my quest."

The meticulously detailed and lavishly illustrated work traces the origin of ventriloquism — the word derived from Latin for "belly speaking" — from its earliest recordings in ancient Greek and biblical writing as a form of prophecy and divination to its emergence as popular entertainment in the mid-18th century. The last chapter contains "how-to" information and includes secrets of the trade.

Vox conducted his research at the British Museum, London University and in such exotic environs as Tokyo and the Vatican library.

"I was coming across amazing stuff that I knew

had never been published," he says. "I was entertaining on ships, so wherever I went, I'd do research. It was a lifetime's work, but I was pleased that I was the first to really document it."

As his book explains, the familiar pattern of the wise-cracking doll sitting on the straightman's knee did not start to become popular until 1896, when Fred Russel, known as "the father of modern ventriloquism," walked onto the London Palace Theatre stage carrying a single figure which he placed on his knee.

Prior to Russel, and continuing into the early 1900s, ventriloquists commonly used a row of dolls and elaborately staged scenarios. For example, J.W. Cooper's act, which is recreated at the Hall of Fame, featured five characters in a barbershop setting controlled by fishing lines attached to concealed foot pedals.

It was Edgar Bergen in the 1930s and '40s, however, who catapulted the modern ventriloquist to international fame through radio, film and TV.

"I had the privilege of making a little film with Bergen in the '60s," Vox recalls, "and I could see why he became a big star. It wasn't because of the radio. He'd learned this art and he had this beautiful timing. He made the characters come alive to where you really believed in them."

An expert at the "distant voice," Vox has also launched a children's TV show, My Video Party, currently being test-marketed in Nevada on the Fox Network.

"We do skits and also have cartoons and videos," he says. "It has that nice flavour that kids' shows used to have, like Captain Kangaroo and Paul Winchell."

Regrettably, Vox acknowledges the minor role to which his chosen craft has been relegated.

"In the States, there's a stigma where ventriloquism is not really considered an art," he says.

Vox's own "obsession" with ventriloquism began when he was 10 years old and found a penny leaflet about voice-throwing.

"It came in very handy at school," he confides, "I could talk to the guy next to me and smile at the teacher. But I suppose my father was the greatest influence on me, 'cause he was always telling me to keep my mouth shut."

Like the legendary Houdini, who took his stage name from the magician Robert Houdin, Valentine Vox adapted his current moniker 19 years ago, becoming the third ventriloquist to use the name.

"It was nice to carry that mantle," he notes. "Sometimes when you do something like that it either works or it doesn't. For me, it worked from the moment I used it — like magic."

UAE to scrap free medical care for expatriates

By Fawaz Kassem
Reuter

DUBAI — Expatriates, who probably make up 75 per cent of the United Arab Emirates' people, will have to dig deep into their pockets to pay for medical care when a virtually free scheme is replaced by compulsory insurance.

"We are only a few details away from a major transformation," said an insurance industry source who declined to be named.

"Now it is inevitable," he added, pointing to a recent Ministry of Health study urging the government to scrap subsidised

medical care for foreign residents.

The ministry report, which has been submitted to the cabinet, concluded that providing free medical services to foreigners was too big a burden for the state to carry.

The estimated cost to the emirate of Dubai alone is 600 million dirhams (\$164 million) annually.

Under the existing scheme, expatriates on work visas and their dependants are entitled to comprehensive medical care at nominal fees which do not cover a fraction of actual costs.

"The only solid fact we know is that the current

system will be scrapped... the rest is speculation," the source said.

The move is likely to hit middle and low-income earners in the UAE, many of them Asian labourers.

"Although the country's health budget has increased, each individual's share has decreased due to the rise in population," the ministry said in its report.

The individual's share of the health budget in 1993 was 815 dirhams (\$222) compared with 1,003 dirhams (\$274) in 1983.

Of the UAE's total population of 2.3 million, an estimated 1.75 million are expatriates.

The study called for establishment of a general authority for health insurance to oversee implementation of a new scheme.

Sources quoted by local newspapers said the new system was likely to introduce a compulsory one-year health care card with a joining fee set at between 300 and 500 dirhams (\$82 and \$137), compared with a fee at present of 250 dirhams (\$68) for two years.

On top of that, individuals would have to pay for medical services at government hospitals and clinics, although it is not known how the government intends to charge.

Health sources said the government was also likely to make having valid medical insurance a prerequisite for issuing or renewing a work visa.

"It is a nightmare," said one Indian worker in the UAE with a family of four.

"Paying for medical cards alone at 500 dirhams a head will wipe out 25 per cent of my yearly earnings... and it is compulsory," he lamented.

Kuwait's decision to abolish free medical care for foreign residents was criticised in the Kuwaiti parliament after an Egyptian worker died last March because he could not afford to pay for kidney dialysis. It is now reviewing the policy.

UAE sources did not know what services would be offered under the new scheme and whether employers would be asked to bear the costs on behalf of employees.

Most of the UAE's expatriates are Asian unskilled labourers earning anything between \$2,400 to \$6,000 annually.

Health officials quoted by local newspapers say the change is justified on more than just economic grounds. They argue that a large percentage of expatriate workers come from poor countries where contagious diseases are common.

Officials also believe that a new system would improve medical services and ease pressure on doctors at government clinics, which they say have been flooded with patients.

"Sometimes a doctor who is not supposed to see more than 40 patients a day is forced to examine more than 80," Dr. Jumaa Bahloul, director of the Department of Health and Medical Services in Dubai, said in a recent interview.

Although the government is expected to earn about 500 million dirhams (\$137 million) from the new scheme in joining fees alone, experts feel that the insurance sector will benefit most as higher-income earners are likely to opt for private insurance rather than join the state scheme.

Companies in the UAE offer medical insurance as part of a life insurance package but experts believe this sector will boom if the measure is adopted.

"Three new companies are already negotiating contracts to establish group medical insurance," an insurance executive said.

"We received inquiries from investors abroad about regulations governing setting up private hospitals in the UAE," he added.

Dutch congress is meat for science-starved vegetarians

By Sara Henley
Reuter

THE HAGUE — Vegetarians gathered here for the annual congress of the International Vegetarian Union, a gathering of scientists and health professionals to discuss the benefits of a healthy, ethically sound diet.

"We want to get rid of all the spiritual and so on," said Dr. Boven, director of the Dutch Vegetarian Society. "We want to get rid of what science has not at all borne out."

The 11th World Vegetarian Congress, held this year by the Dutch Vegetarian Society, will last for five days. It will discuss the benefits of a healthy, ethically sound diet, and the impact of vegetarianism on the environment.

University professors will also bring evidence of ecological and social damage caused by intensive livestock farming. They will reveal that plant and animal species are dying out as meat-farming overtaxes the land, and discuss how Third World communities are being deprived of food by growing inedible crops as export for livestock feed.

A former livestock farmer in the United States, Howard Lyman, will recount how he abandoned his ranch and converted to the Green Movement after realising how he was harming people, animals

and the environment.

"I think the image of meat as a product is slowly in decline," said Mr. Van Boven. "For instance, the range of vegetarian products in Dutch supermarkets is vastly increasing — and shops don't stock things people don't want."

Nonetheless, vegetarians remain a tiny minority in most Western cultures. Mr. Van Boven said Britain is home to the largest vegetarian population in Europe, with about 7.5 per cent of the nation's population being vegetarian.

He could give no reliable estimate of the world's total vegetarian population, pointing out that while there is no nationwide grouping in the United States, in countries like India vegetarianism is often so common it is a simple fact of life.

But he said the congress's 350 delegates — from places as distant as Korea and Estonia — all share a keen appetite for scientific and moral support in their chosen diet.

A highlight for many will be when Australian philosopher Peter Singer launches an international

scientific project to underline the genetic links between humans and apes, as a step towards improving rights for animals.

"The ultimate goal of the project will be for organisations like the United Nations to recognise animal rights," Mr. Van Boven said.

Ethically motivated vegetarians will also be fortified to hear a Leiden University researcher's findings — showing that animals do indeed undergo the equivalent of boredom and depression if confined in a small space for long periods.

Beyond brain food, French cook Jean Montagnard will defy his meat-centred culture with vegetarian cookery demonstrations, and there will be a special Dutch dinner consisting of almost everything but the classic exports, cheese and bacon.

More "fundamentalist" vegans — who also refuse dairy products — will be as well-served by the conference's wholefood caterers as the simple non-meat-eating consumer.

And Colin Spencer, author of a vegetarian history of Britain, will delight

vegetarians who feel especially oppressed at carnivorous dinner parties by arguing that the human race was originally herbivore — hunting, shooting

and fishing have led us astray.

"The delegates will be a very average public," said Mr. Van Boven. "They are all kinds of people

with all kinds of interests. We're already getting calls from old acquaintances keen to see each other again."

The conference, at the Hague Congress Centre from Aug. 8 to 13, is open to the public for a daily price of 70 guilders (\$40) or 240 guilders (\$135) for the full week.

Doctors split over legalising assisted suicide

BOSTON (R) — Doctors are sharply divided over whether it should be legal to assist seriously ill patients to commit suicide, a new survey of physicians' attitudes has found.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, canvassed 936 doctors in Washington state and found that 42 per cent believed it was acceptable in some cases for a person to deliberately administer an overdose of drugs to kill a patient who wants to die.

Forty-eight per cent of the physicians surveyed said such euthanasia was never ethically justified.

Support for legalising physician-assisted suicide was even higher.

Half the doctors surveyed said physicians are sometimes justified in helping a patient die by administering a drug overdose, while 39 per cent said such action is never ethically justified.

Few doctors expressed a willingness to be involved themselves in euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide.

Although 54 per cent thought euthanasia should be legalised in some circumstances, only 33 per cent said they would be willing to perform it.

While 53 per cent thought physician-assisted suicide should be legal, only 40 per cent said they would help a patient die.

The survey, led by Dr. Jonathan Cohen of the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, is one of only a few polls so far conducted of physicians on the subjects of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

It was conducted in a state where voters narrowly defeated an attempt to legalise the two practices three years ago.

The Cohen team found that blood and cancer specialists, the types of doctors most likely to be exposed to terminally ill patients, "were also the strongest opponents of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Psychiatrists, who had the least contact, were the strongest proponents of the two practices."

Women doctors were significantly more likely to support physician-assisted suicide than men, but both genders had similar attitudes toward euthanasia, the study found.

In examining the factors that shaped doctors' attitudes, the researchers found that 56 per cent of opponents of euthanasia and assisted suicide said they were influenced by religious beliefs. Only 15 per cent of those who supported the two practices cited religion.

The researchers also found that 91 per cent of the doctors supporting suicide and euthanasia said they would be consistent with the physician's role of relieving pain and suffering. Seventy-four

per cent of the doctors against the practices cited the same reason for their opposition.

Most doctors who supported the practices said there should be safeguards.

For example, 90 per cent said witnesses to any request to die should not stand to benefit in any way from the patient's death. Eighty-four per cent of doctors surveyed said alternatives such as hospice care and treatment for depression should have been exhausted first.

The researchers concluded that "the polarised attitudes of physicians will make it difficult to formulate and implement laws and policies concerning assisted suicide."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

By Sara Henley

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Tea may prevent cancer — study

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. scientists have found evidence that drinking tea regularly may help to prevent certain kinds of cancer, the Sunday Times reported.

The scientists said a substance in the leaves of green and black tea prevented the spread of cancer by blocking cancer-causing agents in the bloodstream originating from eating cooked meats and fish, the weekly reported Sunday.

Doctors in several centres are experimenting with mice and rats and have shown that cancers artificially induced in the laboratory animals could be "markedly reduced" by giving them tea.

Dr. John Weisburger, director emeritus of the American Health Foundation, said: "It is my impression that if you drink six cups of tea a day it will protect you against cancer."

Dr. Weisburger, who has 40 years' experience in

cancer research, said his studies showed the risk to rats of contracting cancer of the breast, colon and pancreas from cancer-causing agents commonly found in cooked meats and fish was significantly reduced by doses of tea given in the same concentrations as drunk by humans.

But the protective effects were lessened if milk was added to the tea, or if the leaf chemicals were altered at too high a temperature, he said.

Professor Allan Conney, director of the Cancer Research Laboratory at Rutgers University in New Jersey, reported his team's study of tea's therapeutic properties in this month's Cancer Research journal.

The studies were inspired by findings in Japan that drinking green tea reduced the risk of colon cancer. Further investigations have found that black tea has the same properties.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. An artesian well is a deep well which requires no pumping, but relies upon the pressure at which the water lies above appropriate strata to raise it to the surface. It is so called because such wells were first made in Artois, of which the ancient name was Artesium.

2. A KEPI is a kind of military headgear; an OKAPI is a mammal related to the giraffe. It was not discovered until 1900, when it was found in the deep forests of the (former) Belgian Congo.

3. The symbol (?) for question mark is said to be formed from the first and last letters of the Latin quaesitio = question, placed one over the other, thus Q O.

4. (A) Liverpool/Liverpoolian.
(B) Novocastrian.
(C) Muscovite.
(D) Mancunian.
(E) Glaswegian.
(F) Texan.

5. The MEDLAR is not eaten until it is rotten. It is a deciduous, sometimes thorny, tree native to Europe and Asia. Apple-shaped fruit eaten when partly decayed and becomes "blotched", when it has an agreeable acid and somewhat astringent flavour.

PUZZLES

(A) COMBINATIONS

1. Unable
2. Magnate
3. Sanction/Contain
4. Pseudonym
5. Introduce/Reduction

(B) WORD COMPLETION

TOP

Jordan, Israel make steady progress in Dead Sea talks

From Narmeen Murad
at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel

RDANIAN AND Israeli negotiators Wednesday got on to the more mundane but substantive in what is a serious bid to speed up the pace of negotiations. In their second day of negotiations, the two sides spent the day working on the details and technicalities that will lead the two to final agreements. And as things moved forward, both sides appeared to be tightening up the details of these talks. "We have established the principles and now we are moving into details," Dr. Farwan Muasher, spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, told the Jordan Times.

But the "details" are not marginal or unimportant. Having established the principle of "mutual recognition of rightful (water) allocations of the two sides" of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers during the Wadi Araba talks in mid-July, the "details" during Tuesday's and Wednesday's bilateral talks included "discussing amounts of water shares," a Jordanian source said. "I am not going to define to the press now any details on the talks between the Jordanian delegation and Israeli mission," the chief Israeli water expert, Nooh Kinarti, told the Jordan Times. He maintained that his silence "is for the benefit of both countries" when asked to confine that negotiations had

moved to defining exact shares of water. But while not revealing the details of their talks, both sides agree that there is a "common interest" between Jordan and Israel to ensure that both sides have sufficient supplies of water. A Jordanian source said that there is a sense that Israel "has an interest" in cooperating with Jordan in not only agreeing on water shares in the Jordan River and Yarmouk River but also in jointly increasing the water resources. "We know that Israel has an interest in cooperating on the water shares issue as well as in jointly working to increase water resources," the source said. Mr. Kinarti, speaking to Jordanian reporters, said earlier Israel was "100 per cent" committed to resolving the

water problem with the Kingdom in a manner "that you can live with and it would be a satisfactory one." He said that he feels that with "a reasonable attitude I am sure that we will overcome the gaps between the two countries." On the boundary demarcation talks, the Jordanian delegation sources said that Israeli negotiators had accepted the 1928 mandate document as delineating the borders between Jordan and Israel. "What we are going to do now is a purely technical affair," a source said. If the Israeli side continues to view the issue as a "technical" rather than "political" one, Jordanian sources do not see any "major sticking points" on that level. But behind the "detailed negotiations" here, Jordanian political sources say that the Kingdom has the "political will" to push ahead in its track of negotiation, a will that is apparently reciprocated by Israel.

What these sources expect to remain unresolved are "details" over the security arrangements after Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the timing of normalisation procedures and the phases of withdrawal. Analysts and political sources expect that once the "final details" guiding the Syrian track are worked out, Syria would be ready to reach its own separate "declaration of principles" or agreement. The analysts say that the Kingdom wants to ensure the "comprehensiveness" of the peace process but also does not want to be left trailing the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli talks.

According to the well-placed sources, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle diplomacy between Syria and Israel has laid out a general frame for principles guiding an agreement between Syria and Israel. Sources in Amman told the Jordan Times that Jordan feels the urgency of registering concrete progress in its negotiations with Israel in view of the Cairo agreement on the Palestinian track and unseen but definite progress on the Syrian track. The Kingdom has apparently been made aware of progress on the Syrian track that includes reaching some type of agreement on the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel may give Jordan concessions in trade

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL is considering giving trade concessions to Jordan on exports to the territories outside of the autonomous areas, an Israeli official close to the economic talks with Jordan reported yesterday. Economic negotiations with Jordan resumed yesterday at the Moriah Hotel on the Dead Sea shore. The official said the talks were going very well, and that the Jordanians had asked for "symbolic" Israeli concessions on trade with Palestinians outside the autonomous areas. According to the official, the Israeli delegation is seriously considering agreeing to the Jordanian request.

Israeli officials have pointed out that the Paris economic agreement with the Palestinians has, to a great extent, left trade with the autonomous areas in the hands of the Palestinians. Prior to yesterday's meeting, Israeli officials were saying that following the initial step of agreeing on a set of common principles, the negotiations would get bogged down on the details and that expectations for a quick breakthrough were premature. They added that both sides agreed to undertake several feasibility studies for joint projects which also will take time until they are ready for implementation. The Israeli delegation to the talks include Treasury International Division Director Ehud Kaufman, Customs and Value Added Tax Director Arye Zeif, Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Zeev Abeles and Industry and Trade Ministry Deputy Director of Foreign Trade Zohar Peri.

Rabin and Arafat agree to speed up self-rule steps

REZ, Gaza Strip (Agence) — Israel and the PLO decided at a summit in Wednesday to speed up peace moves, announcing meetings next week to iron out obstacles to Palestinian elections and the expansion of self-rule. "We decided the negotiations will continue on Monday and Tuesday between the two committees that deal with early empowerment and of course elections," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters after a more than 90-minute meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. "Definitely we have some differences," Mr. Arafat told a joint news conference at an Israeli army base in the Gaza Strip, their first summit on home ground. "At the same time we have agreed to minimise all these differences between both of us starting from the question of Jerusalem, to the early empowerment, to the financing, donors and donations," Mr. Arafat said. "With determination and continuous organising of these steps, we are sure that we will be able to overcome all our obstacles," he said. In their first meeting since Mr. Arafat settled in autonomous Gaza in mid-July, Mr. Rabin said he had "stressed" Israel's commitment to the declaration of principles signed in Washington last September and the follow-up autonomy accord reached in May. Mr. Arafat requested the talks after speaking of his

"despair" at his treatment by the Israelis and complaining that international donors have dragged their feet in financing Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. He has grown increasingly frustrated at the stalemate in spreading Palestinian self-rule throughout the occupied West Bank, compared with the rapid peace moves between Jordan and Israel. Mr. Arafat hailed the talks as "very important," thanking Mr. Rabin for "pushing forward" what has been agreed upon. Committees overseeing the transfer of more civilian powers to the Palestinians and organising elections to the autonomy council will meet again on Monday and Tuesday in Erez, and the two leaders could hold more talks in two weeks time if necessary, Mr. Rabin said. The liaison committee will also meet on Wednesday next week, the premier added. The two men discussed the issue of an early transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians throughout the West Bank as well as elections to the autonomy council, originally due to be held in mid-July but now put back until at least December. Mr. Rabin said the issue of Jerusalem was not discussed just mentioned in passing. Israel insists that talks with the PLO on Jerusalem are not due to start until the third year of self-rule. Mr. Arafat has been upset that Jordan was guaranteed a special role over the Islamic

sites in Jerusalem in the Israel-Jordan peace declaration two weeks ago. Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who was taking part in the meeting, denied that the Palestinians were losing out because of the Jordan-Israel peace moves. "Any breakthrough on the bilateral level benefits the whole of the peace process," he told Israeli Radio. Mr. Rabin said he also discussed the problem of violence in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere. "I hope that on the Israeli side, on the Palestinian side, tensions will be reduced, violence will be reduced. 'Let's hope that what we are committed to will be implemented in the spirit of readiness to work together with those who try by violence to undermine our efforts.'"



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (l) looks at Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Wednesday (AFP photo) while addressing the press following their meeting at the

Sharaa reports serious efforts to lift Israel-Syria logjam

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Wednesday his country was engaged in serious efforts with Israel to break the deadlock in their peace negotiations. Despite the "constructive spirit," Mr. Sharaa said, no tangible progress was made during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest Middle East shuttle to mediate a breakthrough. Mr. Sharaa spoke to reporters after meeting with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouze. He said that Damascus form a joint team headed by a Lebanese to represent both Arab countries at the negotiations. Mr. Sharaa said Syria told the Americans that it was "strongly annoyed" by an Israeli air raid last Thursday on the South Lebanon town of Beirut al Zahran that killed eight civilians and injured 17. Israel has said the raid was a mistake and apologized. "We in Syria believe that civilians should not be targeted by the violence," Mr. Sharaa said, adding that last week's guerrilla rocket attacks were in retaliation for the Deir Al Zahran air raid. "We believe that if Israel stops attacking civilians the

Lebanese resistance has no interest in shelling northern Israel or attacking civilian targets," said Mr. Sharaa. But Mr. Sharaa also reiterated that guerrilla operations against Israeli occupation forces in the south were "a legitimate right." A top Israeli official meanwhile cited what called "positive signs" of a desire for peace by Syria. The official, Uri Savir, who is director-general of the foreign ministry, said the gap between Israel and Syria over the future of the Israeli-held Golan Heights was still wide. "There are positive signs and it seems to me there is a strategic decision. That is also what we hear from the Americans," Mr. Savir told Israeli radio. He said Syria had shown a desire to reach a settlement and responded positively to Israel's progress with Jordan towards clinching a peace treaty. "The gaps are still significant and what is perhaps the most significant is that there are as yet no direct (Israeli-Syrian) negotiations at senior level in a way that could be productive," Mr. Savir said. Mr. Savir said greater Syrian flexibility was needed.

Mr. Sharaa sought to ease mounting tensions in South Lebanon between guerrillas and Israeli occupation forces, telling reporters Syria opposed targeting civilians in the conflict. "We are not sure until now whether there's been any important change in the Israeli position as long as they haven't publicly committed themselves to full withdrawal from occupied Arab territories," the Syrian official said at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda. Mr. Sharaa said Mr. Christopher told the Syrians that Israel wanted to push forward the peace process after it signed pacts with the Palestinians and Jordanians. "What happened on the other tracks does not negate the fact that without concluding a real, just and honourable peace with Syria and Lebanon the region will not live in genuine peace," said Mr. Sharaa. Underlining Syria's commitment to Lebanon in confronting the Israelis together at the bargaining table, Mr. Sharaa said, Mr. Assad has opposed to Mr. Christopher that Damascus form a joint team headed by a Lebanese to represent both Arab countries at the negotiations. Mr. Sharaa said Syria told the Americans that it was "strongly annoyed" by an Israeli air raid last Thursday on the South Lebanon town of Beirut al Zahran that killed eight civilians and injured 17. Israel has said the raid was a mistake and apologized. "We in Syria believe that civilians should not be targeted by the violence," Mr. Sharaa said, adding that last week's guerrilla rocket attacks were in retaliation for the Deir Al Zahran air raid. "We believe that if Israel stops attacking civilians the

Sanaa group says it took over YSP

SANAA (R) — Pro-Sanaa lower level officials of the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) have declared they have taken over the party, most of whose leaders fled into exile after the defeat of the Aden-based break-away state a month ago. A statement by the group, coinciding with the opening in Damascus on Tuesday of a congress of YSP leaders on the future of the troubled party, declared itself the sole legitimate leadership of the YSP. The statement sent to Reuters late on Tuesday said the group was made up of YSP provincial secretaries and other activists but gave no names. It was not known how many officials were involved or what following they had in the party, which dominated southern Yemen since independence 20 years ago. The Damascus talks, trying to restore party unity after splits that emerged during the two-month Yemen civil war, were chaired by the YSP's deputy leader Saleh Saleh Mohammad. It was attended by 10 other members of the party's politburo, including former Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas and former Defence Minister Haitham Qassem Taber. Mr. Mohammad was not directly involved in the secession but Mr. Attas and Mr. Taber were among its leaders. Party leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, who fled to Oman after the collapse on July 7 of the state set up by southern leaders disgruntled after a four-year merger with the more powerful North Ye-

men, did not attend the Damascus talks. He is said by his Omani hosts to have retired from politics. The Sanaa group said it opposed secession and called for the trial of YSP leaders involved in secession. It said it had "suspended" politburo and central committee members inside and outside (Yemen) including secretary-general (Baidh) and assistant secretary-general (Mohammad). The group, calling itself the higher preparatory committee for the fourth YSP conference, said it was "the sole legitimate leadership which assumes all the party's leadership functions until the convening of the conference." Such a conference is essential under YSP rules to decide leadership and other changes and the group said it would be held within six months. Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government has blacklisted as traitors 16 southern leaders, including Mr. Baidh, Mr. Attas and Mr. Qassem, and says they must stand trial for their involvement in the secession. But the list does not include Mr. Mohammad, who remains officially a member of Mr. Saleh's presidential council, and other YSP leaders who did not openly support the secession and remain members of the Sanaa government. Mr. Saleh, who ruled the merged Yemen for three years in a 50-50 partnership with the YSP, has recently called on what he described as "YSP's middle echelon" to dismiss secessionist leaders and elect a new leadership.

Algeria identifies attack mastermind

(Continued from page 12) However, domestic opposition to the security campaign and to the government's policy of supporting the Algerian government has begun growing. Former Socialist Foreign Minister Ronald Dumas said late Tuesday that the government should encourage Algerian leaders to hold talks with the radicals to defuse the crisis. Jean-Francois Deniau, a minister under former conservative President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, said that rather than focus on clamping down on militants, France should maintain a "good distance" from both the Algerian government and the rebels. The UJA is a non-political, non-profit organisation that annually raises \$750 million of donations which it distributes to Jewish communities in the U.S., Israel and other countries. Members of the UJA are industry and business leaders, whose annual contribution to the organisation amount to \$100,000. The Boston Jewish community is the oldest federated charity organisation in the U.S. and among its leaders is Steven Grossman, president of the influential American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The group had visited Morocco and met with King Hassan before arriving in the Middle East.

He described the Algerians regime as "dictatorial" and "corrupt" and said it had "proved its ineffectiveness in finding a democratic solution" to the former French colony's political crisis. Algerian Islamic Fundamentalists leaders meanwhile have been playing down the Islamic threat to France. Sheikh Abdulbaki Sahraoui, a founding member of FIS and honorary chairman of the Islamic movement's leadership outside Algeria, said late Tuesday that FIS and its armed wing did not want to "spread the conflict to French territory which has never been the target of the Mujahedeen (freedom fighters)." King meets Christian leaders (Continued from page 1)

King meets Christian leaders

deavours to safeguard the holy places in Jerusalem and the King's efforts to regain Arab rights in the Holy City. Attending the meeting were Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shakar, the King's advisers, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad as well as Prince Hassan's advisor. Mr. Uzeizi voiced the Christians' support for the Hashemite family's en-

Crown Prince to head commission

(Continued from page 1)

advocates of truth, goodwill and peace. It is in this context and in our smooth transition towards the new phase is not anyway obstructed, and owing that to enter such a phase would require us to be fulfilled the imperatives of democratisation based on adherence to the Constitution, the National Charter and law, that I entrust you with carrying out the operations for such a drive. A democracy should be where justice reigns, and interests of the nation and citizens are preserved, and where our special privileges are protected for us to be able to cope with continuous changes, both on the domestic and regional levels. Given that I and your countrymen have known about your terms of your penetrating ideas, and your respect for strict application of the law in all spheres of life, your leadership of this undertaking will be invaluable. In order to attain these objectives it is imperative to have the participation in decision-making process. A group of individuals with a history of personal integrity. Furthermore, it is necessary to introduce comprehensive administrative reforms and to elevate the standard of the administrative sector so that it may be able to interact with this environment, particularly in terms of foreign investment, where a prospective investor is provided with favourable conditions to seek

a local partner under a law which should also protect public funds. While Jordan also attempts to widen its contacts with the European Union, the United States, Japan and other regional economic groupings, it should be obvious that the Judiciary, the Audit Bureau, and the Bureau of Administrative Control and Inspection, will have to play a complementary role within the framework of a set of modern laws that are fluent in the language of commerce, in order to preserve Jordan's reputation and status. It is important to note that any misconduct or error of judgment in the use of public funds will undoubtedly reflect negatively on the prospects for future investment. It is thus necessary to establish a Central Purchasing Authority, and to draft a new policy for foreign commercial dealings. It is also necessary to modernise present laws and regulations, keeping profit margins at reasonable and accepted levels. Doing all the above comes at a time when we are adamant to protect our economy from financial deviation and tedious bureaucratic red-tape, which may tarnish its clean and efficient image within Jordan as well as abroad. Those who have served with honesty and integrity, and who have worked tirelessly, should indeed be rewarded. From now on, there should be absolutely no room for leniency with those individuals or entities who abuse public funds, and there should certainly be no room for the misuse of public office for personal gain. In view of all of the above,

I entrust my dear brother and heir with the task of establishing and heading a Royal Commission comprising as members those honest, qualified Jordanians he may deem fit. This Royal Commission should attempt, as one of its many objectives, to seek the creation of economic and investment atmosphere, in both the private and public sectors, based on clear foundations that guarantee the rights of the deserving without leniency, negligence or error. This environment will hopefully pave the way towards the development in the national collective sense, where those involved will run its different components according to sound and scientific bases. This should be done under administrative and legislative principles that will result in activating potential and widening the circle of participation and excellence in the national effort at every level. Such an atmosphere should also instill respect for the law and help identify those areas requiring change or modernisation within existing laws and regulations. Coordination between the different components of this new approach should by necessity be active and continuous. I have no doubt that you will fulfil this task in the best possible fashion, and in this regard you have my unequivocal support. I pray the Almighty to bless you with success. With my warmest affection and sincere admiration,

Your Brother,
Hussein Ben Talal

Crown Prince expects accords in 1995

(Continued from page 1)

Holy City and while religion cannot be separated from politics, "as we try to resolve the political issue there has to be a religious solution that should enhance political moves" to end the conflict over the city. Prince Hassan said Jordan had done more than any other Arab country in terms of demographic absorption of refugees who came in different waves that burdened the country's resources and infrastructure. But the Crown Prince emphasised that despite the cost of assimilating the refugees, Jordan gave full rights to all its citizens without discrimination. He urged that world economic aid should address the real problems of poverty and unemployment and not to employ technical terms that do not correspond with the realities on the ground. He said aid should be directed towards countries that can proceed with im-

plementing projects that can contribute to the development of the region. Responding to a question on whether the coming Morocco conference should channel its assistance to bilateral projects rather than multilateral ones that could be hard to implement, Prince Hassan said: "If the most competent can-doers can get together and come up with the nucleus of an investment seminar" ideas will translate into projects. While noting that "much remains to be done before full peace dawns on the Middle East," Prince Hassan said it is essential to "break down stereotypes." UJA Chairman Richard Pearlstone said many of the members of the delegation who are with him on the organisation's "Prime Minister's Mission" were interested in investing in Jordan as well as in Israel. He said his group and other political Jewish organisations in the U.S. will work to increase economic and political support to Jordan, saying Jewish lobbyists in the United States had pushed for the writing off of Jordan's foreign debt after the signing of the Washington Declaration. Mr. Pearlstone presented Prince Hassan with a framed lithograph representing the Asher, an ancient Israeli tribe. The UJA is a non-political, non-profit organisation that annually raises \$750 million of donations which it distributes to Jewish communities in the U.S., Israel and other countries. Members of the UJA are industry and business leaders, whose annual contribution to the organisation amount to \$100,000. The Boston Jewish community is the oldest federated charity organisation in the U.S. and among its leaders is Steven Grossman, president of the influential American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The group had visited Morocco and met with King Hassan before arriving in the Middle East.

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Japan urged to learn from Hong Kong in dealing with industrial change

specialist banks, a branch of a partly-Kuwaiti owned foreign bank and an Islamic finance company — are too many for the small 1.6 million population.

The central bank has tackled some of the shortcomings

The central bank says the question of whether to allow foreign banks to open branches in Kuwait — seen by

— needed more time and a marked improvement in local bank performance.

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan

funds with a limited foreign participation and Mr. Azzam said the government plans to sell more shares in industrial and services firms.

Kuwait has launched a mutual fund which allows foreigners to participate. Share trade in Saudi Arabia

UAE and Qatar, which both have unofficial bourses, plan to set up official floors and Mr. Azzam said Qatar is to start issuing treasury bills before the end of the year.

Seoul tells conglomerates: Grow but with more public ownership

claiming the restrictions on investment in outside companies would threaten companies seeking to ensure future survival by investing in outside firms.

The grace period uniformly given for the equity sell-off would cost heavily, they said. "The revision was designed

to accelerate competitiveness in business, but it may bring an adverse effect," said Lee Yong-Hwan, an executive manager at the Federation of

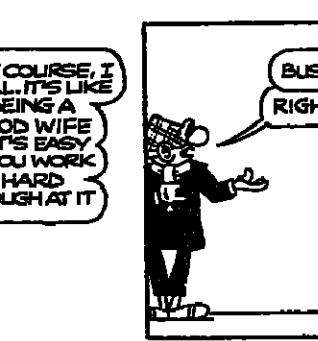
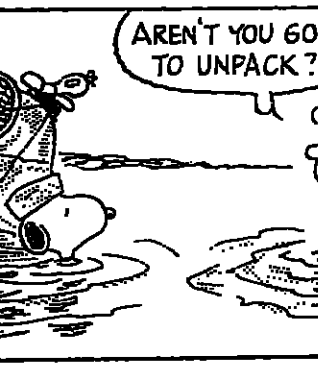
RJ , PIA

sign agreement

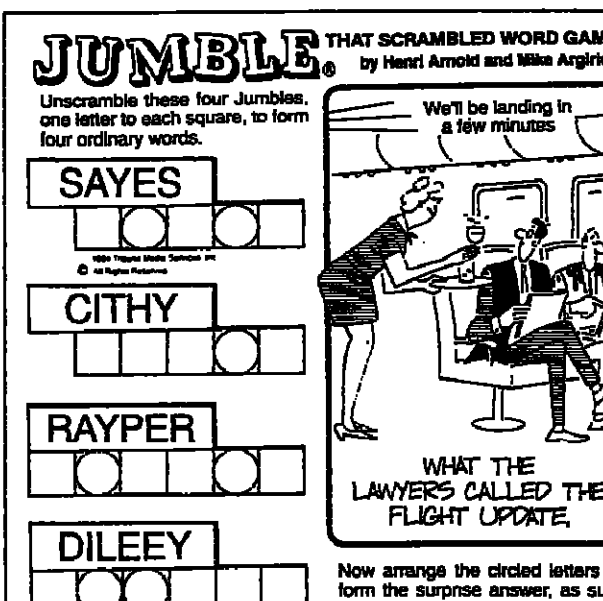
tan International Airlines (PLA) which aim at enhancing and strengthening various aspects of cooperation and coordination in various fields between the two airlines, an agreement has been signed on Sunday.

Aug. 7, 1994, between RJ and PLA for the purchase of PLA automation system (Cossap III) by Royal Jordanian for their implementation in domestic and



out station.



"I'm the Marriage Fairy! I'll grant you three wishes if you turn off that darn TV for one evening!"



gested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "  " 

Yesterday's Jumbles: MERCY ARDOR FERVOR NEA
Answer: What the boarder with the long reach became — BROADER

Director General of Abu Shakra Trading Agency Rami Abu Shakra Tuesday introduced a new perfume for men, at a special conference held for this purpose. Mr. Abu Shakra said the new perfume "JOINT", from Roco Parocco, combines features which makes it a unique perfume for men. JOINT is a new perfume combining imagination, passion and attention. Its nice scent takes use back to a long time ago when perfume was not a mere brand name, but also a dream, an idea and a message, Mr. Abu Shakra said. The new perfume will be on sale to the public at Abu Shakra stores, perfume selling outlets and pharmacies.

PREMIUM EXPERIENCE

DAJANI'S
Gems. Gold. Jewelry.
6th Circle. Amman.

Horoscope not receive

THE Daily Crossword

The Daily Crossword by James Barnes

ACROSS

- 1 Add liquor to
- 8 Reel of a loom
- 10 Hooded cloak
- 14 Theme in art
- 15 Ornaphane
- 16 Paverco
specialty
- 17 Sign on a
wall
- 20 Muffin
- 21 Farm animals
- 22 Crest
- 23 Like some
coffee
- 24 Autocle
- 26 Pub game
- 28 "Catcher in the
Rye" author
- 32 Fire
- 33 Tooth
- 34 Quize collection
- 35 Surveillance
system
- 39 Scott
- 40 Like chameys
- 41 Innermost part
of a shell
- 42 Ramen
- 46 Have rights to
- 47 San —
" — — —"
(Peaps)
- 51 Hagrudy pose
- 52 Broom
- 53 Simple matter in
law
- 54 Powder,
brashly
- 60 Jon
- 61 Part of ecipse
- 62 Person title
- 63 Urge
- 64 Prie

DOWN

- 1 Visibly spoler
- 2 Former carnival
- 3 Particular
- 4 Relatance
- 5 Bring about
- 6 Tear
- 7 Throws in a
curve
- 8 Bug bird
- 9 Woro of

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution

- 10 Deep valley, of a
kind
- 11 Utah city
- 12 Bit of siltake
- 13 Beat
- 14 Is indebted to
- 15 — of (replacing)
- 23 Annoys
- 24 Torment
- 25 Fish sauce
- 26 — Luma
- 27 Oak nut
- 28 Will sit
- 29 Croc a cousin
- 30 Conspires
- 31 Talk with
- 32 Amusement
- 33 Partisan
- 34 Extent
- 35 Swordfish
- 36 Rapturous image
- 43 Soak
- 44 Spiritual
guide
- 45 In the end

- 46 Toodlers
- 47 Brilliant fur
- 50 Musical Bartok
- 51 About
- 52 Scene of a
crime
- 53 Global need
- 54 Three wint
lottery num
ber
- 55 "The Col
—"

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank
U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 9/8/94	Tokyo Close Date: 10/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5390	1.5390
Deutsche Mark	1.5816	1.5791
Swiss Franc	1.3340	1.3310
French Franc	5.4190	5.4085**
Japanese Yen	101.30	101.24
European Currency Unit	1.2060	1.2098**

USD Per SYL
European Currency Unit = 100 Yen 1996

Forward Interest Rates
Date: 10/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.31	4.62	5.06	5.62
Sterling Pound	4.73	5.31	5.68	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	5.93	4.06	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.18	5.31	5.50	5.87
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.18	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.54	5.81	6.00	6.31

Interest rate for 100 Yen = 100 Yen 1996

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 10/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	0.7073	0.7157
Deutsche Mark	0.4405	0.4427
Swiss Franc	0.5225	0.5251
French Franc	0.1266	0.1292
Japanese Yen	0.6867	0.6901
Dutch Guilder	0.3920	0.3940
Swedish Krona	0.0443	0.0447
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.0443	0.0447

Per 100

Other Currencies
Date: 10/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.5300	1.5450
Lebanese Lira	0.040465	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1862
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3050	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1918
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7870	1.6040
UAE Dirham	0.1839	0.1898
Greek Drachma	0.0675	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	1.3785	1.5015

Per 100

Nickel prices slump as Siberian exports flood market

LONDON (R) — Nickel prices fell sharply on Wednesday as metal stockpiled at a Siberian mine in the Arctic Circle during the winter started to pour into the world market.

On the London Metal Exchange (LME) prices touched a three-month low of \$5,760 a tonne, down \$110 from Tuesday.

"Short-term fundamentals for nickel have turned from mildly positive to mildly bearish in the summer quarter ... stocks were expected to rise during this period," said metal researcher Angus Macmillan of LME brokers Billion-Enthoven.

Nickel, whose main use is in stainless steel, has lost 16 per cent of its value since the end of May but is still well above the lows reached late last year.

Traders said Wednesday's drop, in a market already worried by the increased shipments from Russia, was sparked by news that stocks had risen in LME-registered warehouses.

Mr. Macmillan said if prices failed to hold around

\$5,800, they could fall as low as \$25,000.

LME warehouse stocks now stand at 135,660 tonnes, near record highs. Three years ago there was just 2,500 tonnes in store.

Traders said exports would increase over the next few months from Russia's huge Norilsk mine, one of the most northerly in the world in an isolated area with a population of some 300,000.

Before the break-up of the Soviet Union, nuclear-powered ice-breakers would clear a path through the Arctic ice to ensure a steady supply even during winter.

Now, the exporters prefer to save their transport costs and hold on to the metal until the winter is over. Flooding as the ice melts around the part of Dudinka means another couple of months until late July before nickel can start moving overseas markets.

"Russian production and export levels to the west are a major uncertainty in the nickel market," said David Williamson of mining analysts David Williamson Associates.

"It is estimated that exports from this source are expected to rise to 70,000 tonnes in the second half of 1994, against 40,000 tonnes in the first half," Mr. Williamson added.



Shareholders of beleaguered Russian company MMM embarked on an early morning protest in office of the company's vote in support of Red Square Wednesday demanding freedom for Sergey Yavlinsky (banned on left) who is incarcerated in the prison of the tax office in Moscow. Below, with a show of raised hands, MMM shareholders gathered outside the office of the company's vote in support of their rights. The events surrounding the MMM financial crisis are developing more and more into political issues (AFP photo)

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3725/35	Deutsche marks
1.5782/92	Dutch guilders
1.7730/40	Swiss francs
1.3285/95	Belgian francs
32.51/55	French francs
5.4092/42	Italian lire
1583.8/5.3	Japanese yen
101.22/32	Swedish crowns
7.7834/34	Norwegian crowns
6.9038/88	Danish crowns
6.2230/80	
\$1.5375/85	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	\$378.60/379.00

Japanese firm to set up major computer plant in UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — A computer giant is planning to set up the first Japanese manufacturing unit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said Wednesday.

System AI Co. Ltd. had originally planned to base the computer and communication systems project in Hong Kong but shifted to the Dubai Jebel Ali free zone after talks with UAE officials in Tokyo and a visit to the zone, the Dubai Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board (DCTPB) said.

"The new plant will be the first ever Japanese manufacturing operation in the zone," DCTPB chief executive Khalid Bin Syallem said in a statement.

"This is an important milestone in Dubai's development as a manufacturing base for high technology companies. We are particularly pleased because System AI had originally planned to set up their plant in Hong Kong."

The plant, to be called SAI Gulf FZE, will initially produce computer systems and software to establish a strong marketing base in the Middle East, System AI president Junichi Ishikawa said. It will later manufacture computers and communication systems, he added.

There were no initial available figures for investment costs and estimated output.

Several other Japanese firms are already established in the free zone having set up mainly distribution and marketing centers. They include Nissan, Murata Machinery, Honda, Yamaha, Awa, Sony, Casio and Tokai.

Jebel Ali, established in 1985, is the biggest free zone in the region, with more than 450 companies and investments reaching \$1 billion.

According to a study by the Dubai-based Gulf Business Machines company, the computer market in the region is growing by as much as 10 per cent annually. It estimated computer and software sales at more than \$1 billion a year.

Lebanon expects to produce 18,000 tonnes of sugar

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon expects to produce about 18,000 tonnes of white sugar in 1994, an official of the directory of cereals and sugar beet said.

"Initial estimates show the sugar beet crop will be the same as last year's," the official said. All of last year's sugar beet crop was processed locally into 18,000 tonnes of sugar.

The official said the directory would buy the whole crop in September from farmers and process it into sugar — at a cost of about 27 billion lire (\$16 million).

Beirut imports the rest of

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WORLD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dream Team rips Australia

TORONTO (AP) — Dream Team II added insults to embarrassment on the way to their most lopsided victory yet at the World Basketball Championships.

Reggie Miller scored 31 points and the U.S. team of National Basketball Association (NBA) stars rolled over Australia 130-74 in a quarter-final round robin game here Tuesday.

"I found myself embarrassed by the score," Australian coach Barry Barnes said. "When you lose by that much, you should be embarrassed. But team will bounce back and come out the better for it."

Taunts and comments by U.S. players during the blow-out surprised the Australians. "They certainly had a lot to say," said Andrew Baze, who had 23 points in the game.

"Some of it was quite humorous. Some I wouldn't want to repeat. Everyone had something to say."

"We were taken a little off guard at the way they were treating us. I think for them it's normal. We're from a different culture. But it seemed like a lot," Baze said.

Miller, known for taunting, said players were only enjoying themselves after dunks or long shots. The U.S. team made 14 of 22 3-point attempts.

"I would prefer not to have my team trash talk," U.S. coach Don Nelson said. "If we did, we will talk about it."

In the other quarterfinal match Tuesday, Sergei Bazarevich scored 27 points and Russia remained unbeaten here by downing Puerto Rico 101-65.

"Russia had the talent to compete with the U.S. team," Puerto Rico coach Carlos Morales said. Australia stayed within range for 14 minutes, but superior depth and talent kept the U.S. team perfect in eight world-level meetings with Australia.

Miller and Mark Price each made 5-of-6 3-point shots. Price finished with 17 points and Miller recalled his hot fourth quarter in the NBA playoffs after being taunted by New York fan Spike Lee.

"I had a bit of a Spike Lee flashback," Miller said. Australia pulled ahead 17-10 on Shane Heal's 3-point shot 4:14 into the game. But

the U.S. team dominated once rested reserves entered. Shawn Kemp and Kevin Johnson sparked a 14-3 run late in the first half on the way to a 62-48 half-time bulge. Australia came no closer than 15 after that.

Puerto Rico had beaten the host Russians on the way to the Goodwill Games title earlier this month, so revenge was on Russian minds here. "We're happy to retaliate for the absolutely horrible game we lost to them at the Goodwill Games," Bazarevich said.

Bazarevich scored eight points in a 20-7 Russian run that broke open a tight game in the final minutes. Russia took their largest lead at 95-79 on a Bazarevich jumper with 3:26 to play and Puerto Rico came no closer than 11 after that.

"I'm completely satisfied, but I'm completely dissatisfied with our defence," Russian coach Sergei Belov said. "There were a lot of mistakes, especially in positioning under the rim for rebounds."

The victory puts Russia in a strong position to reach the semi-final, while dimming



Spain's Ferran Martinez (centre) drives between Egypt's Esmadiddin Mahmoud (left) and Sharif Al Sanadli during their qualification game Tuesday at the World Basketball Championships (AFP photo)

Puerto Rico's hopes.

"It was a must-win game for us to advance," said Sergei Babkov, who scored 20 points. "We showed our

strength in the second half. We remembered the loss from before. That's why we had a special attitude."

Jose Ortiz led Puerto Rico with 20 points.

Braun wins heptathlon at European Championships

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Sabine Braun of Germany came from behind to win her second consecutive European championship heptathlon Tuesday, while host Finland gained its first title.

Sari Essayah of Finland won the women's 10-kilometre walk in a European championship record of 42 minutes, 37 seconds. She was the world champion last year.

Italian Annarita Sidoti edged Russian Yelena Nikolayeva for the silver medal, both finishing six seconds behind the winner.

In the heptathlon, Braun trailed Russian Svetlana Moskalets by 42 points, entering the javelin throw, the sixth of the seven events.

Braun took advantage of a poor throw by Moskalets to gain the lead, scoring more than 200 points better than the Russian in the javelin. Moskalets dropped to fifth entering the final event, the 800 metres.

Braun held her advantage and won the heptathlon with

6,419 points, just 15 points ahead of Rita Inanici of Hungary. Usmula Wlodarczyk of Poland took third with 6,322 points.

Moskalets, despite finishing the 800 metres four seconds faster than Braun, stayed in fifth place, ending with 6,308 points, just three points behind the fourth-place finisher Larisa Turchinskaya of Russia with 6,311 points.

Braun won the European title in 1991 and took the world crown the following year when world recordholder Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the United States had to drop out with an injury after four events. At last year's world championships, Braun was second behind Joyner-Kersey.

Earlier in the evening, Britain's Linford Christie received his medal for his 100-metre victory Monday night. By winning his third consecutive European championship title, Christie tied

Valery Borzov of the former Soviet Union, who won three consecutive European 100 metres over a five-year span when the European championships were held in 1969, 1971 and 1974.

Christie's time this year wasn't fast, just 10.14 seconds, barely better than the 10.15 he recorded in winning his first European title eight years ago.

In 1990 at Split he gained his second crown in 10.00 seconds.

"I came here just to win the title. Now I have the championship, which is all that really matters," he said.

This year, Christie was sidelined three weeks with a left hamstring injury before the championships. He had not raced in 23 days before Sunday.

"I was very hungry, I wanted to race," Christie said. "Once I knew I was over my injury, no one was going to beat me."



Irina Privarova (left), winner of the women's 100m of the European Athletic Championships, and bronze medalist Melani Paschke of Germany wave from the podium after receiving their medals Tuesday. Silver medalist Zhanna Tarasovskaya did not appear at the ceremony (AFP photo)

Danish champions threaten pay strike

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark captain Lars Olsen said Wednesday the European champions will go on strike unless they get special bonus payments.

The pay row threatens next Wednesday's friendly against Finland in Copenhagen as well as the campaign to qualify for the next European soccer finals, beginning with an away game against Macedonia Sept. 7.

"We are not going to play again until we've got a new pay deal with bonus arrangements. It's no joke, we are professionals after all," Olsen said.

The Danish soccer team have been negotiating a new pay deal for 1994-96 with the association for several months but have failed to reach agreement on player bonuses.

"All I can say is that we have still not found a solution to the team's demands. We plan to contact them again," Danish Football Association information officer Lars Berendts said.

According to media reports, the football association is refusing to accept team demands for profit-sharing bonuses on top of their normal salaries.

Benetton rapped over fire

PARIS (AFP) — A filter which would have prevented the flash fire that engulfed the Benetton car of Jos Verstappen at the German Grand Prix had been "deliberately removed," officials said Wednesday.

Benetton have been summoned to an October 19 meeting of the World Council of FIA, motor sports' governing body, to explain why the part was missing from the refuelling system.

Detach driver Verstappen and three mechanics escaped with superficial burns when the fire broke out during a refuelling stop.

After studying a report from Intertechnique, the French firm which provides grand prix refuelling systems, FIA said in a statement:

"The fuel spillage was caused by a valve failing to close properly. The valve was slow to close due to the presence of a foreign body."

"The foreign body is believed to have reached the valve because a filter de-

signed to eliminate the risk had been deliberately removed."

Under FIA rules, such equipment "must not be modified in any way whatsoever."

The summons adds to Benetton's problems with their German driver Michael Schumacher who is appealing against a two-race ban for ignoring a black flag at the recent British Grand Prix.

The team are also under suspicion for allegedly disguising a computerised starting system in the world championship leader's car. No proof that the team used the system has emerged.

A German auto magazine, Motorsport Aktuell, said in its latest edition that Schumacher's start at Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix will be monitored from the air.

A helicopter will follow the driver from the starting grid looking for clues such as the absence of tire marks, the magazine said.

Brazil choose new manager

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Mario Zagalo has been appointed Brazil's next coach to replace Carlos Alberto Parreira, who quit after Brazil won the USA World Cup.

In his third stint as national coach Zagalo, who was 63 on Tuesday, will have wider powers than Parreira, a nod to Brazil Football Federation President Ricardo Teixeira.

Zagalo won the World Cup twice as a player, in 1958 and 1962, and coached Brazil to victory in 1970 in his second stint in charge from 1970-74. His first spell lasted only one game, the 1-0 win against Chile in 1967.

Teixeira said Zagalo will take over the Olympic side as well as the full international squad and will also have responsibility for international junior sides.

He will attempt to win the only major trophy to escape Brazilian football, the Olympic gold medal.

Zagalo's first game in the hot seat will be in November when Brazil take on the rest of the world in a charity match.

In the United States Zagalo was assistant to Parreira, who has since joined Spanish league club Valencia as coach.

Effenberg back to Germany

BONN (R) — Steffen Effenberg, the gifted German midfielder sent home from the World Cup in disgrace, has signed on loan for his old Bundesliga club Borussia Muenchengladbach.

Effenberg, 26, who has had a turbulent relationship over the years with both fans and coaches, was flown home from the United States after making an obscene gesture to fans during Germany's match with South Korea.

National coach Bert Vogts said he would never pick him again for the German team. Effenberg's return from Italy's Fiorentina made him one of a flood of Germans to return from the lucrative

scene before the new season and the biggest signing in years for Borussia, who have not won a championship since their five titles between 1970 and 1977.

Werder Bremen, the 1993 champions, negotiated with Effenberg at the weekend but failed to agree terms.

Borussia's manager Rolf Ruessmann said he hoped German fans would give their prodigal a warm welcome and forget he had been sent home.

"Our fans want him, and away from home we hope people will give him a chance. During our negotiations he showed he wants to make a fresh start," Ruessmann said.

Holmes, after winning 19-round decision, wants to fight Foreman

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. (AP) — Looking forward to his third — and, he promises, his last — retirement, Larry Holmes plans to enjoy some of life's simple pleasures.

And, when he has the time, he plans to give boxing's powers-that-be some most unpleasant moments.

After winning a unanimous 16-round decision over Jesse Ferguson Tuesday night, the 44-year-old former world heavyweight champion said he would like to fight fellow old-timer George Foreman before retiring for good at the end of the year.

"I would fish, learn how to tend bar and teach fighters how to fight," said Holmes, whose 61-4 record includes a 13-1 mark since he came out of retirement a second time in 1991. "And I would cause problems to the fighting game to make the sport more legitimate."

Holmes, the champion from 1978-85, claims he hasn't gotten a title shot since he lost to Mike Tyson in 1988 because promoters don't like him. He has no use for the lightweight super boxing divisions — WBA, IBF, WBC and WBO.

"Sometimes there's no such thing as fairness. It's all who you know," he said, noting that maybe he'll just learn his own boxing organization: "I would call it LHO."

Ferguson might sign on if he thinks it will give him some justice.

He and his managers, Seth Braunstein and Greg Cohen, agreed with the capacity crowd of 2,574 at Mystic Lake Casino who thought he had won the fight and booed when the 97-94, 96-94, 99-92 decision was announced.

"We've constantly had to suffer losses to someone who might be in the better graces of boxing's hierarchy," Cohen said.

Added Braunstein: "Jesse has to work hard for his crumb. To hear a score 99-92...that was a embarrassment to boxing. Give me a break."

After the decision was announced, Ferguson shook his head in disbelief. He then stood on the ropes and raised his arms.

Ferguson, 37, best known for beating Ray Mercer in 1993 after Mercer supposedly asked him to take a dive, fell to 20-13.

Ferguson threw most of the fight's hard shots but Holmes was more active, scoring with dozens of left jabs — the punch that fuelled his seven-year championship run.

"He showed one good punch every other round," said Holmes, who was staggered by an overhead right in the second round but otherwise seemed unfazed by Ferguson's attack. "Landing one punch every other round doesn't win a fight. It doesn't even win a round. Jesse might have thrown 10, 15 punches a round and you just can't win like that. I averaged 35, 40."

Holmes, who felt he got shortchanged in title-fight losses to Michael Spinks in 1985 and 1986, empathized with Ferguson.

"The game is not always fair," he said. "I was the champion of the world for 7 years. Jesse has never been a champion. It's called boxing politics and it's going to happen. But I won the fight."

And he feels he can win one more.

"It would be historic, George Foreman and me. But George is afraid. Unless he can whip someone's butt, he doesn't want to fight," Holmes said.

"We don't have too much in this game left. I realize that. If I fight again, great. If I don't, so be it. I don't need boxing. I've already made my place in history."

Tough baptism for UEFA Cup's new nations

LONDON (R) — Europe's new nations struggled to put themselves on the soccer map when they made an inauspicious debut in a greatly expanded UEFA Cup late Tuesday.

While debutants from Armenia and Azerbaijan were given a roasting welcome to top-class soccer, former European trophy winners Aberdeen were being held to an embarrassing 0-0 draw in Latvia.

Scotland's Aberdeen, former Cup Winners' Cup holders, drew 0-0 with Skonto Riga in the biggest upset of the first leg of the UEFA Cup preliminary round as the European club competition began an unusually early start to the season.

Armenians Ararat Erevan lost 3-0 at CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria while Turkey's Fenerbahce thrashed Touran of Azerbaijan 5-0 in their first-leg tie in Istanbul, although, two, of the goals came in the last minutes.

Aykut Kocaman scored twice, in the 44th and 66th minutes, after Bulent Uygun opened the scoring in the

15th minute. Their Danish striker Nielsen converted a free-kick in the 81st.

With UEFA expanding the tournament from 64 to 91 teams following the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, and the reduction in size of the European Cup, the glut of UEFA Cup entries demanded an enlarged preliminary round.

Scotland's other preliminary-round representatives, Motherwell, made a predictably winning start with a 3-0 victory over Hibernian of the Faroe Islands, although the win was not achieved with the style and goal-feast the fans had expected.

The biggest win of the night came in Poland where Gornik Zabrze thrashed Ireland's Shamrock Rovers 7-0. But the biggest scoreline was a 6-2 away win by Rapid Bucharest against Malta's Valletta.

Romanian international striker Ioan Vladovici missed the chance of completing a hat-trick when he failed to convert a last-minute penalty

in that tie. Vladovici, who had just four minutes of action at the World Cup in America, netted in the 14th and 46th minutes on a sweltering night on the Mediterranean island.

The Maltese pulled the match back to 2-3 midway through the second half but were then buried by three goals in the final 16 minutes.

Slovak Bratislava of Slovakia, another former Cup Winners' Cup holder under the old national borders of Czechoslovakia, won 2-0 against Fortuna in Northern Ireland.

Former Welsh and Arsenal goalkeeper George Wood made a return to European football at the age of 41 but could not save Welsh side Inter Cardiff from a 2-0 defeat at home by GKS Katowice of Poland.

Another former Welsh international, Mickey Thomas, was also in the side two months after being released from a prison sentence for passing forged bank notes. He was one of five players making their debut for the club.

Turkish fugitive soccer star detained in Skopje

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish soccer star Tanju Colak was detained in Macedonia and could be extradited to Turkey to face sentencing for an auto smuggling conviction, a Turkish newspaper reported Wednesday.

Colak, the leading scorer in European soccer in the 1987-88 season, fled the country shortly before Turkey issued an arrest warrant for him. He was arrested Tuesday at a friend's house in Macedonia, a newspaper reported.

The Istanbul daily Milliyet reported from the Macedonian capital Skopje that Colak was questioned by a judge who ordered him jailed until

Turkey relayed the necessary documents for his extradition.

Milliyet published handcuffed pictures of Colak being escorted by police.

Upon returning to Turkey, Colak faces 22 months in prison and a fine of 772 million liras (\$24,500). He was found guilty last year of knowingly buying a smuggled car. An appeals court upheld the conviction last month.

Colak previously said he had left Turkey to train with a local team in Macedonia before flying to St. Petersburg for a game against Russia Aug. 7. But Russia later cancelled Colak's invitation. Colak gave contradictory

statements about whether he intended to return home or not. He said he should be pardoned just as the Argentine government pardoned soccer superstar Diego Maradona for drug offences.

The conviction effectively ends Colak's career, because Turkish sports regulations forbid anyone sentenced for certain crimes, including smuggling, from playing professionally again.

Colak starred for the Istanbul team Galatasaray in the late 1980s and for Fenerbahce in the early 1990s. His career later went into decline and he was transferred to Istanbulspor in the second division.

Activists plan to use Commonwealth Games to publicise their cause

VICTORIA, British Columbia (R) — Activists in campaigns as diverse as the environment and anti-colonialism are planning to use the international media presence at this month's Commonwealth Games to draw attention to their cause.

"We want to make sure the world media is aware of these issues...There's a fascist side to Canada that gets hidden. Some of our actions will be spectacular," said environmental campaigner Carrie St. Pierre.

Most activists say they won't try to disrupt the sporting events, but promise attention-grabbing stunts, picketing and other action.

"They refuse to say what they are planning but have previously chained themselves to logging machinery, occupied buildings and unfurled huge banners from prominent buildings."

An environmental group in nearby Seattle is asking tourists not to flush the lavatory

during their stay in Victoria in protest at the city's dumping of untreated sewage into the sea.

A local man, Fin Donnelly, plans to swim 30km across the freezing waters of the nearby Georgia Strait to draw attention to the need to protect ocean waterways.

About 200 people are planning to set up a camp in Victoria where they will hold rallies on issues ranging from native Indian rights, anti-colonialism, homosexual rights and women's poverty.

Most of the protests will centre on the environment. The hottest issue is logging in the rain forests of Vancouver Island not far from Victoria.

Logging forms the basis of the regional economy and the forests, especially one in an area called Clayoquot Sound, have become an environmental battleground.

Environmental groups such as Greenpeace have started international campaigns to persuade consum-

ers to boycott British Columbia forest products. Last year, more than 800 protesters were arrested for blocking logging roads at Clayoquot Sound.

More than 3,300 athletes from 67 countries are taking part in the games and some 2,500 journalists are expected to cover the events, some of which will draw international television audience of up to 300 million.

About 70,000 extra visitors are expected to converge on this west coast city for the games which run from August 18-28.

Tourism is the top money spinner in Victoria, established in the 1850s as a British colonial outpost and described as more English than England.

"We're projecting \$50 million Canadian (\$36 million U.S.) in increased tourism revenues this year and most of that is games related," said Lorne Whyte, chief executive of Victoria's tourist board.

Despite rosy forecasts, two weeks before the games were due to open, only just over half — 195,000 of a total 357,000 tickets — had been sold.

The organisers deny any lack of interest and say they expect strong ticket sales in the remaining days. They have already covered all their costs, they add.

The games organising committee is billing them as "environmentally friendly" because of efforts to recycle and minimise environmental damage.

The official mascot is a smiling killer whale, native to local waters. But environmentalists say this is part of an attempt to whitewash the province's bad environmental record and cover up problems.

"It's disturbing and doesn't paint an accurate picture of what's going on," said a spokesman. "We'll be do-

ing to ensure the public doesn't buy into this message," said Greenpeace's Tamara Stark.

Police will be on increased alert during the games and activists say they have been told they must confine their activities to out-of-the-way locations.

George Heller, president of the games society, said he expects protests but vows they won't disrupt events. "I'm not worried about it. They have every right to demonstrate but they can do it without interfering," he said.

The Commonwealth, which groups former British colonies, is being targeted by some protesters as a legacy of imperialism, said St. Pierre of the group friends of Clayoquot Sound.

"We're against oppression and colonialism is definitely a part of that. That's why we have no problem targeting Commonwealth, but



NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali gets cable from Christopher

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Wednesday received a cable from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressing his appreciation of the prime minister's relentless efforts in the peace process. Mr. Christopher pledged that the United States would pursue efforts to overcome the remaining challenges and obstacles in the path of peace.

IAF stresses opposition to peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), Wednesday reiterated rejection of the Middle East peace process and all Arab-Israeli agreements and declarations signed and issued since the process was launched in 1991 in Madrid. In a statement issued at a press conference, the IAF called on all popular and political institutions and forces in the Kingdom to confront the negotiations and their results by preparing scientific and practical plans to fight dangers inherent in normalising relations with Israel. The front stressed in the statement, read by its spokesman Hamzeh Mansour, that Palestine is the property of "the whole nation" and urged the mass media to open "the channels for the opposition." They also called on the government to respect public freedoms, release all political prisoners and stop chasing mosque preachers. Countering Mr. Mansour's statement, Justice Minister Hisham Al Tel denied that there were any political prisoners in Jordan.

Weizman cuts jail terms for 8 Palestinian women

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel reduced sentences for eight Palestinian women prisoners Wednesday, clearing the way for their release within days. A statement announcing the move from President Ezer Weizman's office was issued shortly before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was meeting Yasser Arafat for their first summit in Gaza. It also came after Mr. Rabin's wife, Leah, intervened following a promise during a joint appearance July 13 on ABC Television with Mr. Arafat's wife, Suha. Prisoner releases, which Mr. Arafat was expected to bring up with Mr. Rabin, are an essential confidence building measure for keeping up Palestinian public support for the peace agreement. Mr. Weizman's spokeswoman Batia Keinan gave no reason why he was freeing the eight. They were among a list of women prisoners serving time for anti-Israeli offences. Mrs. Keinan wouldn't give their names or details about their alleged crimes, except to say that none had blood on their hands, meaning they were not involved in any fatal attacks. Israel initially promised to free the women last week, but Mr. Weizman insisted on fuller explanations about their cases, Israel Radio said.

Kuwait studying Iran war games idea

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is studying an invitation from Iran to conduct joint military exercises, its defence minister was quoted on Wednesday as saying. Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Sabah added he would discuss the invitation at a meeting with defence ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries before the end of the year, newspapers reported. "We will discuss the Iranian request to carry out joint manoeuvres with our armed forces in the next meeting of the GCC defence ministers," he was reported as saying on Tuesday. The GCC comprises six Gulf Arab states — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — and has set up in 1981 in part to counter a potential threat from Iran's Islamic revolution.

Iran imposes tough rules on weddings

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have imposed strict new regulations on weddings in the southern city of Shiraz to ensure they conform with Islamic principles, a newspaper said Wednesday. The families of the bride and groom now have to submit a copy of the wedding invitations and inform police of ceremonies, a police statement said reported by the daily Aftab. Women and girls as young as nine will have to be fully covered in line with Islamic principles, and salons and banquet rooms will have to be segregated by sex. Only waiters of the same sex can serve female or male guests. The statement added "unauthorised music, bands and singers" were banned from wedding parties and men were forbidden from photographing women or vice versa. The regulations were announced at the end of the Shiite Muslim mourning months of Moharram and Safar.

Moderate tremor shakes southern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake shook Iran's southern province of Hormuzgan Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The Islamic Republic News Agency said the tremor occurred at 6:53 a.m. (0323 GMT), registering a preliminary magnitude of 4.6, according to Tehran University's geophysics institute. The epicentre of the quake was 850 kilometres southeast of Tehran, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus. Iran is acutely earthquake prone and reports tremors in various parts of the country almost every week. An earthquake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage.

Iran seizes almost six tonnes of opium

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police seized 5.8 tonnes of opium in a raid on drug traffickers in southeastern Iran near the Pakistani border this week, police chief Reza Seifollahi said. Mr. Seifollahi, quoted by Tehran Radio, said the drugs were seized in the Mir-Javah region of Sistan Baluchestan province. He gave no specific date or provide information on the circumstances in which the opium was seized. Mr. Seifollahi added that 64 "drug traffickers and bandits" had been killed in clashes with police and another 215 been arrested in southeastern Iran since March. And 2,775 smugglers were arrested in a crackdown on contraband in regions in southern Iran, bordering the Gulf, during the same period, he said. Authorities seized 55 tonnes of various drugs in four months up to July 21, a 10 per cent leap on the same period in 1994, according to official figures. Drug trafficking and consumption are strictly banned in Iran under a law passed in 1989 laying down the death penalty for anyone found with more than 30 grammes of heroin or more than five kilogrammes of opium.

Pakistan rejects Afghan proposal

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan Wednesday rejected an Afghan proposal to station U.N. observers along their common border to investigate allegations that foreign-made arms were being smuggled into war-ravaged Afghanistan. "If any weapons are coming from Pakistan, they (the Afghan) can detect them on their side of the crossing points," a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said here. He added that currently there were more arms in Afghanistan than in Pakistan. Masood Khalili, a special envoy of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, said at a news conference here Monday that international monitors should be posted to probe the smuggling claims. Mr. Khalili urged the United Nations and the 51-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to appoint observers and devise other mechanisms of curbing the flow of foreign weapons into Afghanistan. Mr. Khalili has blamed neighbouring Uzbekistan for supporting Mr. Rabbani's rival, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who is trying to topple the president. Mr. Khalili also denied as "baseless" reports that Mr. Rabbani was receiving military assistance from India. The spokesman said the ousted communist regime in Kabul agreed that an ongoing holy war could be controlled if monitors were positioned between the Pakistan and Afghanistan borders.

Kaddoumi: Autonomy stumbling

TUNIS (AP) — The three-month-old Palestinian autonomy under Yasser Arafat in Gaza and Jericho is stumbling, a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said Wednesday, predicting a flareup in Palestinian resistance against Israel.

Farouk Kaddoumi, a PLO Executive Committee member and the organisation's foreign affairs spokesman, blamed the "failure" of the embryonic Palestinian self-rule on PLO-Israeli peace agreements, which he described as "full of shortcomings."

"Every day (that passes) proves that the peace process is stumbling... and if these shortcomings continue the process will fail," Mr. Kaddoumi said Wednesday.

The only way to achieve a lasting peace between the Palestinians and Israel and "success" of Palestinian self-rule, he said, is through "a full Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian occupied territories."

"Therefore, it's imperative that the struggle should continue and the uprising go on until Israel pulls out its last soldier from the Palestinian territories," he said.

Asked about the possibility of a flareup on the six-year-old Palestinian uprising, which Mr. Arafat agreed to end under his Sept. 13 peace accord with Israel, Mr. Kaddoumi said:

"As long as there is one Israeli soldier, our people have the right to continue their resistance."

But he also blamed the Palestinian National Authority for not doing enough to set up national institutions since it took over power in the territories on May 12.

Mr. Kaddoumi was speaking to the Associated Press in his headquarters here after two days of discussions with other senior PLO leaders "on challenges faced by the Palestinian authority" in Gaza and Jericho.

Seven members of the decision-making Central Committee of the PLO mainstream Fatah group attended the previously unannounced meetings here.

Sources close to the meetings said the leaders have come out with a conclusion that the PLO hit hard by a severe financial crisis and threatened by a political eclipse, needs to be reinvigorated.

Iraqi official to visit Turkey for talks on pipeline

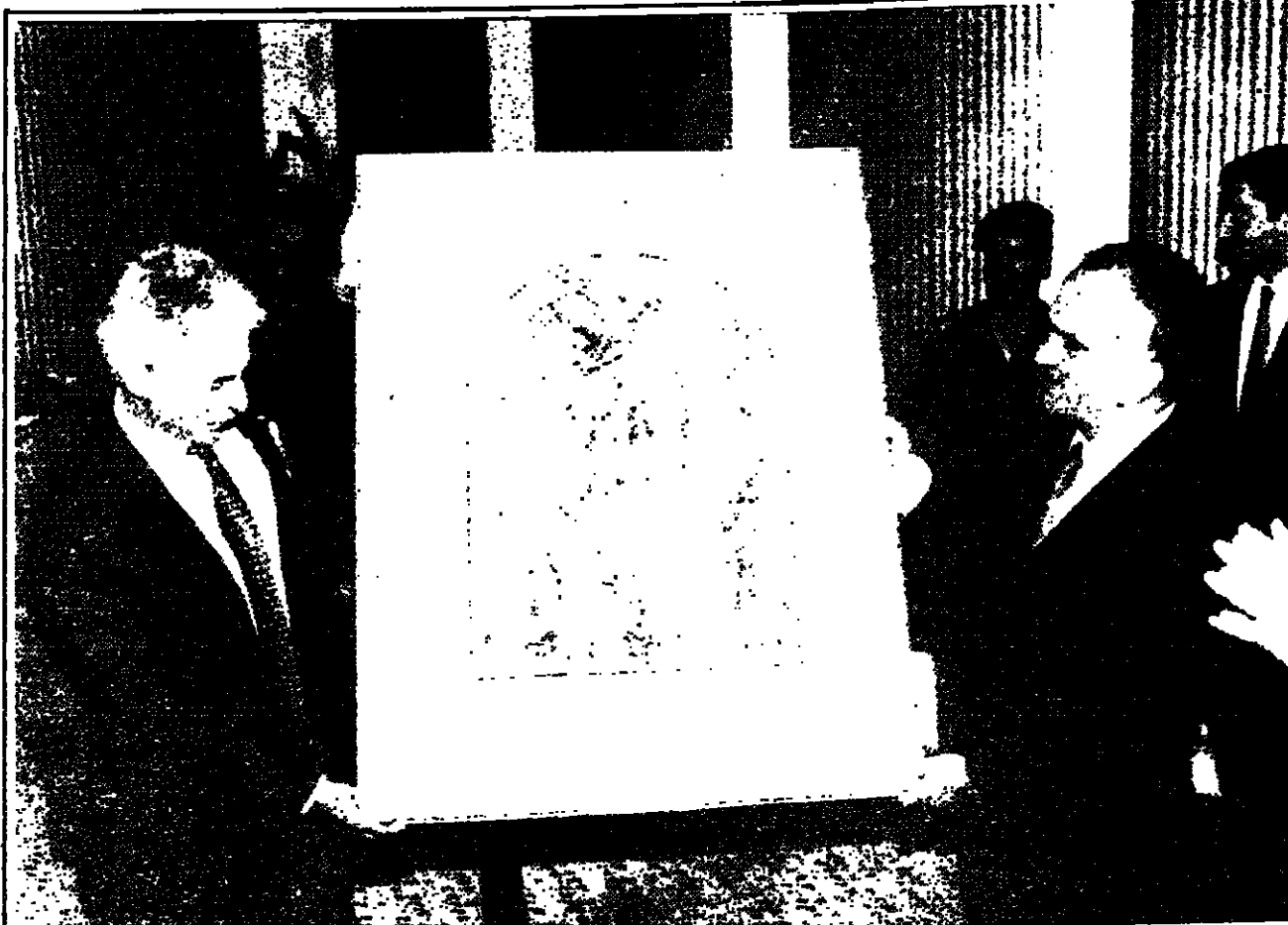
ANKARA (Agencies) — A senior Iraqi diplomat will visit Ankara on Thursday to discuss the trans-Turkey pipeline which has been closed since the United Nations embargoed Iraq's oil exports in 1990.

Turkey has been seeking Security Council authorities for months to pump Iraqi oil trapped in the pipeline.

Although the pipeline needs to be drained to prevent damage, Baghdad has not been able to agree with the U.N. about what to do with food and medicine Iraq would get to return for the oil.

The U.N., which imposed trade sanction on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, wants to monitor distribution of the badly needed supplies and to make sure a portion goes to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said that Riyadh Al Qaysi, under-



SYMBOLIC GIFT: Richard Pearstone, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, on Wednesday presents a lithograph depicting the Asher, one of 12 ancient Jewish tribes, to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at a breakfast meeting (see page one) (Petra photo)

Algeria identifies mastermind of attack; Paris presses sweep

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security officials Wednesday named the man behind an attack in Algiers that killed five French nationals on Aug. 3 as Djamel Zitouni, head of an armed group.

The attack was claimed by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the armed fundamentalist groups.

Mr. Zitouni, 26, a member of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), heads a group which has carried out attacks mainly in the Birkhadem region near the Algerian capital.

He is suspected of killing French nationals Roger Michel Drouaire, a businessman, and his son Pascal Valery at Birkhadem in March, and two residents of the former Yugoslavia at Ben Aknoun, near Birkhadem, on July 11.

The two Frenchmen were discovered in their villa with their throats slit. The Yugoslavs were killed along with two businessmen in a restaurant

of the Ben Aknoun zoo.

Informed sources said Zitouni headed a GIA "death squad."

In Paris, six suspected Islamic fundamentalists were arrested Wednesday and sent to a disused army barracks in Folembay bringing to 23 the number of suspects being held in the northeastern French town, police said.

Last week 17 suspected Algerian fundamentalists were interned in Folembay. Their arrest followed the attack in Algiers.

The six arrested Wednesday were named as Abderramane Madani, Boualem Chibani, Azzedine Cefouane, Mohammed Doumi, Said Magri and Larbi Kechat.

Four of the six were at the barracks Wednesday afternoon, while the other two were on their way, the police said.

The 17 suspects arrested last week have all been served with deportation orders and France has said they will have to use their own initiative to find a coun-

try willing to take them.

If they cannot do this, Paris has said they will be returned to Algeria. The 17 claim their lives will be in danger if they reenter their homeland.

On Saturday the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of the FIS threatened France with reprisals if the Folembay 17 were "not freed immediately."

The FIS was poised to sweep to power in Algeria when the army stepped in to cancel the second round of elections in January 1992. The party has since been outlawed.

France's hardline interior minister pledged Wednesday to pursue a tough crackdown against suspected extremists, despite growing domestic opposition to the campaign.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said in a radio interview that the government's "security-creating operations" would continue to "send a signal to those who might try to abuse our hospitality."

Thousands of people have

been subject to identity checks and 143 have been detained since police began a widespread security operation in Paris on Saturday.

Police arrested 34 more people Tuesday night in the French capital in a fourth night of security checks.

The government on Tuesday also banned five Muslim publications which Mr. Pasqua said were spreading anti-Western and anti-French propaganda.

Mr. Pasqua said Tuesday that "most of" the suspects held in Folembay were "active militants with direct links to FIS and other fundamentalist movements who for us, in the present circumstances, represent a threat."

Mr. Pasqua said that the "security operations" which were "not particularly aimed at Islamic fundamentalists" would "continue to be put in place."

"You won't catch any fish if you don't go fishing," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Mandela to seek apartheid reparations for Namibia

WINDHOEK (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela said Wednesday he would try to repay Namibia for the apartheid wrongs committed against that country during 80 years of colonial rule by the former South African government.

"We are concerned with assisting our comrades in Namibia," he told a press conference at the end of a two-day state visit to the country. "I will go back and raise the matter and discussions will follow."

But he added that his fledgling government faced a heavy burden in trying to redress the wrongs caused by successive apartheid governments interfering in states neighbouring South Africa.

The issue must be addressed, but it must be addressed in a sensitive manner, taking into account that we are a developing country," he said. "We should be able to seek apartheid reparation without having to be buried by our obligations as the successor to a government of oppression which denied the people of this country self-expression."

South Africa acquired Namibia from Germany at the end of World War I and ruled it until United Nations-supervised elections and independence in 1990.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma's South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) waged a 23-year guerrilla war with the South African Defence Force (SADF) before a ceasefire in 1988, which paved the way to the elections.

Mr. Mandela said an extradition treaty with Namibia was vital to deal with South Africans who had been involved in apartheid crimes against Namibians.

COLUMN

'Diana came to Martha's Vineyard for privacy

WEST TISBURY, Mass. (AP) — Britain's Princess Diana decided to spend a vacation on Martha's Vineyard after watching other celebrities, including President Bill Clinton, enjoy the island in relative privacy, according to her host. "She knows it was one of the very few places in the world where she could be surrounded by nice people and it would be hard to be found by the press," said Lucia De Lima, wife of the Brazilian ambassador to the United States, who said the princess was her house guest. "Our intention is to have almost a normal life, to really enjoy this island as much as the other tourists do," Mrs. Lucia De Lima told the Vineyard Gazette newspaper. Martha's Vineyard is an island off the southern coast of Massachusetts. The Opal, a yacht that reportedly is at the princess's service, is docked in the Vineyard Haven Marina. The crew told other yacht owners nearby that it was headed for Maine later in the day. Meanwhile, two employees of the Edgartown Yacht Club said they saw Princess Diana sailing Friday afternoon with former CBS News anchorman Walter Cronkite. Princess Diana reportedly is staying at Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha De Lima's rented 18th-century clapboard home while her two sons, William and Harry, vacation with their father, Prince Charles, in Greece. "She is very charmed by the Vineyard," Mrs. Lucia De Lima said. "She hopes to have a peaceful time here, because it is so beautiful. She knows you are very charming people, and you will be very protective toward her. You will respect her need for some privacy and a vacation."

Archaeologists unearth treasure inside Kremlin

MOSCOW (AP) — Archaeologists excavating inside the Kremlin walls have uncovered a treasure in silver coins and paper money from the 16th and 17th centuries, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The recent digging has turned up artifacts dating to the 12th century, when the Kremlin was erected on the banks of the Moscow River. The findings include hundreds of objects, including ceramic fragments and medieval utensils, the report said. The money was found near the former Senate building, an 18th-century structure presently being restored. The money was believed to be buried in 1612 when the Kremlin, then occupied by Polish invaders, was under siege. The treasure consists of an undetermined number of silver coins and about 3,500 pieces of paper money, ITAR-TASS reported in a brief dispatch that gave few details. The money was uncovered at the end of July, but the findings were not announced until Tuesday. ITAR-TASS said, adding that additional details would be released soon. Though best-known as the seat of the Soviet and Russian governments, the Kremlin also contains one of Russia's premier museums, The Armoury, which includes thousands of priceless artifacts from the czarist era.

NASA robot dropped back into volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — A remote-controlled robot remained in an active volcano's crater Tuesday after efforts for a helicopter rescue were aborted by a broken tether, the Alaska National Guard said. Dante II, the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) robot posted on the 11,070-foot (3,374 metres) Mount Spurr, tumbled back into the crater that it has explored since July 29, in a rehearsal for space missions, officials said. "It appears that they dropped the robot," said Sergeant Bruce Gazzaway of the Alaska National Guard. "Unfortunately, it fell back into the volcano, so it makes it a little more difficult to retrieve." Further helicopter rescue attempts are likely to be requested by NASA, he said. "I'm sure they still want the robot."